



Agenda item C7

Subject : **SEA ANGLING REPORT April 2013**

Classification : Unrestricted

Summary : To report on the Recreational Sea Angling Sector in KEIFCA District

KEIFCA Progress

January and February 2013 brought an end to the Cefas Sea Angling 2012 project during which officers completed a further 16 interviews from 9 sites visited to find the toughest of anglers willing to brave the elements in the pursuit of a winter catch. Throughout the project 166 interviews were completed with anglers from 102 sites visited around the district. While some sites had no anglers for staff to interview, others provided useful information which officers have been able to learn from.

The increased contact with anglers has also provided officers with opportunities to promote the IFCA to members of the general public who were not aware of KEIFCA. As planned, training of the angling officer went ahead in February with a day of bait digging and an introduction to the various types of bait available to anglers along with the methods of collecting it from our shorelines.

Kent & Essex Angling Summary

With the cold weather came a lull in angling activity and catches seem to be mainly with the commercial fisheries. However reports of good catches of plaice being caught along the beaches in Sussex made their way east to the Kent coast in late February to anglers in Hythe. A good spell of dabs were also seen during February moving up along the Kent coast towards the estuaries along with a few flounder which while not in the same quantities that used to be seen, are reported to be on the up from the previous few years. However, on the north

side of the Thames, reports of good numbers of Flounder were seen around Tilbury, though all appeared to be thin. Off Southend, boat anglers reported catching herring throughout the three months although most were spent by the start of March.

Due to the continuing low water temperature thornback rays were not seen by shore anglers during this period, although a few were caught by boat anglers sporadically. Further north, in the Wallet, boat anglers managed to occasionally catch small codling in fair to good numbers up to the end of March when large numbers were caught over the Bank holiday weekend.

Current Developments

- Further training in gear selection, casting shore angling and boat angling is scheduled to take place in the coming months.
- Organisation of a stakeholder workshop with interested parties has begun for external comments on the new KEIFCA Angling Strategy which was presented to the Authority in the previous quarter.
- Attendance at the Southend 'Try Pier Fishing' event is planned by the angling officer in order to increase public awareness of KEIFCA and the work we do especially with the young individuals taking part and other members of the public visiting Southend Pier.

Alex Senechal
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