

**Agenda item C5**  
**Sea Angling Report**  
**Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority**  
**Quarterly report for the period ending 30 June 2015**

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

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**KEIFCA Progress**

On 29<sup>th</sup> March 2015, legislation was passed that limited recreational fisherman to a bag limit of three bass per day. Further conservation measures to follow are a proposed increase of 6cm to the size limit, bringing the minimum size a bass can be landed by either commercial or recreational anglers to 42cm. KEIFCA has received enquiries from both shore and boat anglers; further details can be seen on the KEIFCA website.

**Essex Angling Summary**

As the codling moved off into deeper water, Thornback rays started to show in good numbers around the various sand banks off the Essex coast. By the end of the quarter rays had spread through the district and reports of catches from Canvey Island on the Thames, Frambridge in the River Crouch and Bradwell in the Blackwater were received. Smooth hounds put an appearance towards the end of the quarter, the Essex charter fleet found fair numbers of them over shallow sand banks but there were not as many large females as expected. Sole and flounder have been caught in the estuaries in better number than the last few years. Bass fishing on the Essex coast has yielded large numbers of small bass, although larger specimens have been caught by both boat and shore anglers.

**Kent Angling Summary**

This quarter has seen good fishing along the Kent coastline. Good catches of thornback rays dominated the first half with both shore and boat anglers catching good numbers of fish with rays in excess of 13lb being reported. Smooth hounds started to put in an appearance towards the end of the quarter, double figure fish and large numbers being reported. Most of the reported catches were for catch and release with only the odd fish being taken for the pot. Numbers of small bass have been caught on the shoreline, with the odd sizeable fish being reported. Two to three pound bass have not been uncommon with the odd larger fish putting in an appearance