



Agenda item B5.

By: Assistant Chief IFCO  
To: Kent and Essex IFCA – 22 January 2016  
Subject: Bass legislation for 2016  
Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: To report on the new legislation introduced for 2016 regarding fishing for bass

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Throughout 2015 the European Commission has been working with member states and their scientific advisors on a range of measures to reduce bass fishing mortality. However, stocks are continuing to decline and further measures have now been put in place to protect bass. In 2016 additional restrictions are to be implemented on both commercial and recreational fishermen, and those restrictions will be published in the new TACs and Quotas Regulation in early January 2016. Until the new regulation is published the existing measures in Council Regulation (EU) 2015/104 will continue to remain in force.

The measures pertinent to the main gear types in use in the KEIFCA district include the following:

**For commercial fisheries:**

From 1st January to 30th June 2016 there is a prohibition on commercial vessels fishing for bass except for; demersal trawls and seines which are permitted a 1% bass by-catch; fixed gill nets (not including drift nets) which are permitted 1,300kg per vessel in January, April, May and June. The fixed net fishery is closed in February and March.

From 1st July to 31st December 2016 monthly catch limits apply to all vessels. 1,300kg per vessel per month for fixed gill nets (not including drift nets) and 1,000kg per vessel per month for all other gears.

### **For recreational fisheries:**

From 1st January to 30th June 2016 catch and release only permitted

From 1st July to 31st December 2016 one bass per fisherman per day

It is recognised that these measures will create difficulties for fishermen within the district, especially given the non-quota position of bass which means it has in recent years made up a significant percentage of an inshore vessels annual income. Bass is also a highly prized non-commercial species targeted by recreational fishermen and charter vessels throughout the district.

These measures have been put in place relatively quickly and officers will be working with MMO and other IFCA's to introduce these measures in a coordinated manner. These measures significantly alter the legislative landscape which fishermen are required to comply with and as such, work to achieve compliance, by both education and enforcement, with these measures is a significant priority within next year's Annual Plan.

### **Recommendations**

Members are asked to **CONSIDER** the above and provide **COMMENTS**.