

## **Agenda item C5**

### **Sea Angling Report**

#### **Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority** **Quarterly report for the period ending 31 December 2015**

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

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### **KEIFCA Progress**

The weather during this quarter has remained mild for the time of year, which has meant that some of the summer species have stayed longer than usual. The introduction in March 2015 of the three bass limit per day, for recreational fishers, was a topic that most anglers still continued to feel strongly about and was commented on during most inspections. From 1 January 2016 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016, more measures for anglers are being implemented and it will be prohibited to retain any sea bass. From 1 July 2016 recreational anglers will be allowed to keep one bass per day.

Officers have continued to visit tackle shops and angling venues, handing out tackle box stickers and business cards. The tackle box stickers have proved popular with more than 1500 being distributed within the district, the office is currently waiting a delivery of another 1000.

Throughout the whole of the district both whiting and spotted dogfish are proving to be a pest, most anglers have started to use bigger hooks and baits to avoid catching them. Despite this, these two fish have stopped many anglers from catching anything. Anglers that have persevered have managed to enjoy good fishing.

### **Essex Angling Summary**

In December, 12 tackle shops were visited to raise the profile of the new angling lead officer for the IFCA. Overall this was well received with discussions being both lively and informative.

Cod has been caught along the Essex coastline with thornback rays still coming to rods. Whittings continue to take baits for other species. In late November the herring and sprat shoals moved into the estuaries, which made the fishing more difficult as the fish fed on the shoals of the fish rather than on anglers bait. Bass have continued to show in small numbers around coast.

## **Kent Angling Summary**

The fishing through this period has been good, with good fish showing on most of the coastline. The North Kent Coast has continued producing Thornback Rays up to the end of December, further up the river at Gravesend, and cod have been reported.

Bass and cod have been caught on the Southern Kent Coast, with more fish being caught just after a good breeze. Large Bass with fish up to 12lb have been landed, with most of the bass being released back, multiple catches of small cod have been caught from the beach at Dungeness and Hythe which has provided good sport for anglers.

### **Boat Fishing**

Charter vessels throughout the district have reported that good fishing was had when the conditions allowed; their customers enjoying good sport with cod, thornback and bass all coming over the gunnels. Small boat owners have had similar success.

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