

Agenda item C4
Sea Angling Report
Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
Quarterly report for the period ending 31 August 2016

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

KEIFCA Progress

Gemma Galbraith, who has recently been appointed as an IFC officer in Essex has been tasked with becoming the dedicated angling officer for Essex. This will enable us to spread our efforts more evenly over the district.

Dover and the surrounding areas have a large population of people from other countries that enjoy sea fishing and usually take most of their catch for the table. This has led to some complaints about the size of fish being taken. Whilst on patrol, officers have issued the minimum size ruler sticker and explained both the rules and consequences to them, however in the majority of cases it appears that they were unaware that sea fish had size limits. To help educate and inform them, KEIFCA are trialling minimum size posters and posters in various languages explaining the one bass per person rules on Dover Pier.

Since 1st July 2016 recreational fishers have been allowed to catch one bass per day. KEIFCA has issued posters and stickers that explain this latest part of the Bass restrictions throughout the district.

Another thousand of the minimum size ruler stickers have just been collected and will again be issued to tackle shops and anglers throughout the district. It is now common to see pictures of fishes on Facebook with our sticker being used as a reference.

Kent Angling Summary

As the shore crab moult continued through April and May, thornbacks, and smooth hounds appeared in good number all along the North Kent coast. The occasional bass was also caught, with the odd bigger fish being reported. Sting Rays were also caught off the shore, first by accident, but later by design. Green weed turned up during June and shut down the fishing in the more productive places along the North Kent shore limiting the time people could cast a line.

Mackerel started to appear on the South Kent Coast during June with the fishing peaking in August with catches of 100 plus fish being reported. Catches along

this coast line, have been varied. Dover soles, bass, spotted dogfish and whiting's making up a lot of the catches. Thornback Rays and smooth hounds also putting in appearances.

Over the May Bank Holiday weekend, Officers conducted dedicated angling patrols concentrating on angling hotspots throughout the district. On the Bank Holiday Monday Dover's Admiralty Pier was targeted, with 160 inspections taking place.

Essex Angling Summary

Thornbacks and spotted dogs have featured in catches on the shore, with eels and flounders also being caught. Green weed made an appearance late May and curtailed shore fishing. The Essex piers continued to produce fish throughout this period, producing bass, mackerels, pouting and whiting in the catches.

Inner Thames and River Medway Angling Summary

Both the River Medway and the River Thames west of Southend have produced plenty fish, Bass in various sizes, flounders, eels and the odd sole making an appearance has made interesting fishing.

Boat Fishing

Smooth hounds were the preferred target fish for the charter boats from Thanet with good numbers of fish being caught. The skippers of the boats are practicing catch and release, returning most of the hounds caught during the day.

Bass has featured amongst the catches, with thornback rays and dogfish becoming a pest when fishing a fish bait making it difficult to target other species. Boats in the south of the district have had success with drifting baits to catch plaice, turbot and brill.

