

Agenda Item C5

Recreational Sea Angling Report

Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Quarterly report for the period September to November 2016

KEIFCA Progress

On 1st January 2017 new bass restrictions will come into force. This is likely to include a total ban for the commercial fleet and a bag limit for recreational fishers; the final details to be announced in December 2016. KEIFCA will be making sure that the anglers in our district get the correct information quickly to allow them to continue to enjoy their sport.

Officers have been visiting angling venues and tackle shops, listening to the concerns of anglers and handing out our minimum size ruler stickers. These have remained ever popular and another 1000 have just been ordered.

I attended an angling match on the Isle of Sheppey held by Sheerness SAC in October where I was able to listen to the views of anglers before the match started and hand out size ruler stickers. Two more matches will be attended by Fishery Officers in late November on both sides of the Thames.

Kent Angling Summary

The south coast beaches have all produced good fishing, with bass, thornback rays, mackerel and flounders being caught. Large bass has been landed frequently with the majority of anglers practicing catch and release.

Squid has been reported caught off the shore at Hythe, with some anglers having as many as twenty in one trip.

Whiting have returned to the Kent coast in numbers making it hard to present a bait for anything else.

On the North Kent coast thornbacks and dogfish have been the main catch with the occasional bass; fishing has been hard due to large amounts of green seaweed.

At the beginning of November reports were received of cod being caught along the south coast line.

Essex Angling Summary

Small whittings have plagued catches on the Essex shoreline. Thornbacks and spotted dogs have featured in catches with the occasional Dover sole.

The Essex piers continued to produce, bass, mackerel, pouting and whittings with large thornbacks also being caught.

Clacton Beach has produced a couple of cod; hopefully this is a sign that the winter run of cod has just begun.

Bass have been caught all along the Essex shoreline but reports are showing that they are of a small size.

Inner Thames and River Medway Angling Summary

Sport on both of the rivers has been sporadic with flounder, bass and eels featuring in the catches. Whittings have just started to show in numbers, hopefully boosting catches further.

Boat Fishing

Throughout the district charter boats have been able to catch good numbers of thornback rays. Bass have featured regularly in boat reports with good size fish being taken. Cod has proven elusive, but boats are reporting cod being caught in the first couple of weeks of November.

David Deverson
First Mate/Angling Officer, Kent