

Sea Angling Report

Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Quarterly report for the period May – August 2017

KEIFCA Progress

From the 1st July anglers, have been allowed to keep one bass per person; throughout the quarter KEIFCA Officers have been working with the MMO to enforce these restrictions.

A joint patrol between Marine Management Organisation and KEIFCA Officers took place in August on Dover Admiralty Pier, with Port of Dover Police also in attendance.

Directed angling patrols have taken place throughout the district targeting known hotspots and piers.

The minimum size ruler sticker continues to be popular with fishermen and another 500 stickers were ordered in August. Officers are now seeing more anglers who have got the stickers on their tackle boxes.

Kent Angling Summary

All around the Kent coast, various methods of fishing have led to the capture of bass, with double figure fish being reported. The methods have included fishing with lures, using live baits and big fish baits. This has led to multiple catches in a single session with most anglers maintaining a catch and release policy.

Green weed has made parts of the North Kent coast nearly impossible to fish; the anglers that have persevered have found thornback rays, smooth-hounds and bass.

Mackerel have returned this summer in large numbers, with anglers reporting that they have been able to get 60 plus fish in a single short session, with good fishing from Herne Bay to Dungeness.

Mini species have been targeted by some anglers using very light gear, they have reported catching blennies, gobies, smelt and wrasse. This method has also led to the capture of sizeable fish.

Dover soles have featured in catches at Hythe and Dengemarsh with multiple fish being reported in a single night's fishing.

In the last weeks of August small pin-whiting have returned in large numbers on the south Kent coast, with anglers complaining that at times it has been impossible to catch anything else as the whiting have been taking the bait within minutes of the bait hitting the seabed.

Essex Angling Summary

Bass have been caught along the Essex coastline with the occasional bigger fish being reported. Thornbacks and a few stingrays have been caught from beaches and piers. The Essex piers have consistently provided sport for anglers during this period with thornback rays being the main target.

Small whittings, dabs and flounders have also featured in anglers' catches with sizeable fish being taken.

Inner Thames and River Medway Angling Summary

Fishing has improved as the summer progressed with sizeable soles and bass featuring in the catches in both rivers with flounders also putting in an appearance. Eels of various sizes have made a welcomed come back this year.

Boat Fishing

Smooth-hounds have continued to provide sport throughout the summer months with some boats catching large numbers. Thornback rays have been caught in good quantities on most trips. Bass are being caught in good numbers to the boats targeting them.

Turbot, plaice and brill have been caught in the English Channel off Dover with charter vessels catching good numbers.

David Deverson,

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer