

Agenda item C5
Sea Angling Report
Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
Quarterly report for the period ending November 2017

KEIFCA Progress

Whiting are featuring in most catches around the KEIFCA coastline with large numbers being caught. Anglers have voiced concerns about the size of these whiting as the majority do not meet the minimum size (27cm).

In January 2018, new EU legislation concerning Bass in regards to anglers will be introduced. KEIFCA officers will continue to work with the angling community to pass this information on.

KEIFCA officers continue to patrol and inspect anglers along the KEIFCA shorelines and remind them that they are only allowed to take one bass per day.

Kent Angling Summary

With whiting and lesser spotted dog fish taking baits aimed at other fish it has been a struggle at times to catch different species but despite this other fish have been reported.

There have been a few codling reported as being caught from the beaches around Kent coast; hopefully a sign of a better winter than last year.

Bass are still being targeted, with a few good fish being reported.

Mackerel have continued to show on the south coast when the conditions have been calm and bright.

Catches of squid are being reported south of Dover with some anglers targeting squid and managing multiple catches.

Thornback rays are still being caught occasionally from the shore.

Essex Angling Summary

Again whiting and lesser spotted dogs are featuring high in anglers' catches.

Bass and Thornback ray are still being caught off the Essex piers.

One or two codling are making an appearance on the Essex coast.

Inner Thames and River Medway Angling Summary

The ever present whiting are showing in numbers on both rivers, with also mainly small bass and the occasional mullet being caught.

Silver eels appear to have made a small comeback this year with more being reported.

Small codling and the odd sole have also featured amongst the catches on both the inner Thames and the River Medway.

Boat Fishing

Both Essex and Kent Charter boats are reporting cods being caught by anglers, these have ranged from just about sizeable to double figure fish. Thornback rays are featuring in many of the catches, mainly from around the Thames Estuary area.

Bass and smooth-hounds continue to be captured with many of both species being returned to the sea after a quick photo.

Dogfish and whiting have also featured heavily in the catches throughout the district with good numbers being caught.

Conger eels have been targeted in the south of Kent with some being boated in at 50lb plus.

David Deverson

Angling Officer, First Mate