

**Agenda item - C6**  
**Sea Angling Report**  
**Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority**  
**Quarterly report for the period January 2018 to May 2018**

**KEIFCA Progress**

During 2018 recreational anglers will only be able to catch and release bass as part of the latest bass restrictions. KEIFCA officers are passing out stickers and posters to angling shops together with visiting venues throughout the district, reminding recreational anglers of these restrictions.

The coldest February for a few years has impacted angling throughout the district. The water temperature has been lower than normal for the time of year which has led to some species of fish taking longer to turn up in the district than is usual.

KEIFCA officers continue to patrol angling venues and inspect anglers along the shorelines and hand out the minimum size ruler sticker when needed.

On 29 April, two officers visited the Gravesend Spring Open Beach Fishing competition, where they handed out stickers and talked to the anglers.

**Kent Angling Summary**

Thornbacks started to show on the North Kent coast. These have provided sporadic sport since the cold snap in February with sport improving through April. Spotted dogs, dabs, whiting and flounders have also featured in catches on the North Kent coast.

With warmer weather during the last weeks of April, the shore crabs have started to moult. This has led to increased fishing activity from anglers and more fish being caught. Thornbacks and bass have made up the catches with good catches of thornback rays from the shoreline from Herne Bay to Sheerness.

Dabs, whittings and flounders have made up the bulk of the catches from the South Kent beaches with plaice being caught when the water has been clear on the calmer days. Thornbacks rays are also being targeted with success in Hythe Bay.

The last week in April has shown an increase in small bass around the Kentish coast with multiple catches being reported.

## **Essex Angling Summary**

Thornbacks again are featuring high in reported catches from various venues on the Essex coast with flounders, whittings, dabs and spotted dogs also being caught. Bass is being caught all along the Essex coast line. Now that the weather has improved fishing is improving, with multiple catches of thornbacks being reported.

The Essex piers have provided anglers with sport and fish when other venues are proving to be difficult to fish.

## **Inner Thames and River Medway Angling Summary**

Flounders and small whiting are making up the bulk of catches on the rivers with the odd sole or bass occasionally being caught. European eels have been caught as the temperature in the rivers has risen. The extreme cold weather affected the fishing considerably and the rivers took a long time to recover.

## **Boat Fishing**

As the weather improved, so has the boat fishing. Thornbacks have been plentiful and a small number of smoothhounds have been reported. Bass have also started to show with fish of all sizes being caught. Whiting and spotted dogs continue to feature in some catches.

David Deverson  
First Mate FPV Nerissa/Angling Officer