

## **Agenda item C5**

### **Sea Angling Report**

#### **Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority**

#### **Quarterly report for the period ending August 2018**

#### **KEIFCA Progress**

KEIFCA officers have continued to patrol and inspect anglers along the KEIFCA shorelines and hand out the minimum size ruler sticker when required. Having received reliable information from the public which indicated undersize mackerel had been targeted/caught and retained on piers within the Kent and Essex district a new sticker has been offered to anglers. This sticker shows a picture of a sizeable mackerel between two lines allowing anglers to put their catch over the sticker to instantly see if the fish is sizeable.

#### **Kent Angling Summary**

Fishing on the Kent shore line this quarter has been varied with many different species caught by anglers. In the past the majority of these species would only have been caught in certain areas but reports this year have suggested that this is no longer the case.

Bass have shown up on many of the Kent beaches, with large numbers of small juvenile bass being reported; the bigger bass have also been plentiful with a few breaking the double figure mark.

Thornback rays and smoothhounds have continued to be landed with multiple catches of both species.

Whittings have just started to make a return to the beaches, having a brief disappearance during the early summer months.

Soles and plaice have been caught from the beaches at Hythe and around to Dengemarsh.

In August, mackerel had just started to appear in good numbers off the Kentish piers.

## **Essex Angling Summary**

On the Essex beaches plenty of small school bass have been landed and amongst these, bigger bass are being caught. Silver eels, thornback rays and soles are also being caught.

Sting Rays have been targeted off the beaches with success.

The Essex piers have produced a variety of fish including tope, conger eels, smoothhounds and thornback rays.

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

On both the River Medway and Thames multiple catches of small bass in a single session have been reported with the odd bigger specimen being reported. Mullet, sole, and flounder have also featured in catches.

More silver eels have been reported this season from the rivers; anglers are being reminded that all silver eels are to be returned

## **Boat Fishing**

The charter boats have had good fishing with thornback rays and smoothhounds in good numbers being reported. Bass fishing has proved to be good with many good fish being caught and returned. Tope have been targeted by some boats with good fishing being reported by the skippers that have put in the effort.

The wrecks through the district have produced a few small codlings, with a few conger eels showing in the south of the district.

Boats drifting baits on the sand banks off Folkestone have had plaice turbot and Brill.

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