

## **Agenda item C5**

### **Sea Angling Report**

#### **Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Quarterly report for the period ending November 2018**

### **KEIFCA Progress**

The EU announced in September 2018 that from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 recreational fishers would be able to keep one sea bass per person per day. KEIFCA officers have been out and about informing anglers of this change.

KEIFCA officers have continued to patrol and inspect anglers along the KEIFCA shorelines and hand out the minimum size ruler sticker when required. On the 19<sup>th</sup> November the EU reported a proposal that recreational fishers would be able to keep one European sea bass per angler per day from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019. On the commercial side the restrictions on the fixed netters that are proposed are even more stringent than last year, with 1% bycatch of total species aboard as well as an annual quota.

### **Kent Angling Summary**

Whiting have started to dominate catches along the Kent shoreline along with lesser spotted dog fish and the occasional flatfish.

A few codlings have been caught from beaches and piers in the south of the district. This is a promising start to the winter season.

Small bass are still being caught in numbers throughout the Kentish coast with bigger fish being reported.

Thornback rays continue to be targeted from the shore with some success.

### **Essex Angling Summary**

The Essex coastline is producing a lot of small whiting, with a few sizeable fish being taken home.

As in Kent, bass are still around to be caught; these are mainly small fish under the 42cm size limit, with a few bigger fish being landed.

Other catches being reported have included lesser spotted dogfish, flounders, dabs and silver eels.

Codling have been caught off the Essex piers along with thornback rays.

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

Fishing in both river has been steady, with bass still being caught in both the upper Thames and the River Medway. Whiting have started to be caught in large numbers and other fish have included the odd sole with a few flounders.

### **Boat Fishing**

Some charter boats are reporting that they are still catching thornback rays in good numbers. Bass continue to be caught and with anglers being allowed to keep one per day this has enabled the occasional one to be kept for the pot. Whiting and lesser spotted dog fish are making up the rest of catches onboard. Small codling and the occasional larger specimen are being reported throughout the district.

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