

Agenda item C5
Sea Angling Report
Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
Quarterly report for the period February to May 2019

KEIFCA Progress

The bass restrictions appear to be making a big difference to the fishing of recreational anglers. From speaking to them it appears the general feeling is there appear to be more bass being caught and that perhaps the restriction for anglers could be relaxed allowing for more bass to be landed. It was suggested that the stringent controls on the commercial boats have allowed for more potential bass for anglers to target. The anglers are doing their part in allowing the stocks to recover by practising catch and release.

The latest bass restrictions for recreational fishers is that they are allowed to keep one European sea bass per angler per day from the 1st April 2019 to the 31st October 2019, KEIFCA officers will be passing on this information on to anglers and tackle shops within the district.

KEIFCA officers have continued to patrol and inspect anglers along the KEIFCA shorelines and handout the minimum size ruler sticker when required.

Kent Angling Summary

Most beaches on the Kent coast are proving capable of producing bass and thornback rays, the spring run of these species has been good, with many double figure rays being reported. Smooth-hounds have only just started to be caught in any numbers, coinciding with the yearly moult of the shore crabs. Lesser spotted dog fish are proving to be a pest taking baits intended for bigger fish.

On the south coast from Hythe to Dungeness, plaice and flounders have been caught in good numbers.

Both Deal and Dover Piers have produced smooth-hounds, thornback rays lesser spotted dog fish with a few summer species turning up.

Essex Angling Summary

The Essex piers have produced lesser spotted dogfish and thornback rays with flounders and whittings, making up the rest of the catches. Bass have continued to be caught from these venues.

Anglers continue to catch thornback rays and bass from the Essex beaches

Inner Thames and River Medway Angling Summary

European eels, flounders and bass are making up the bulk of the catches further up the rivers with the odd thornback ray being caught up the River Medway

Boat Fishing

The charter boats fishing the Thames Estuary are reporting good catches of thornback rays, lesser spotted dogfish, and a few bass to a decent size. Smooth-hounds have just started to be caught in good numbers.

The charter boats that were able to get further afield reported catching spurdogs and tope

The charter boats in the south of the district are also catching the odd codling and pollack, the skippers of the boats out Dover and further south have been exploring the Varne Bank for turbot and plaice.

David Deverson
First Mate/Angling Officer