

Agenda item C5

Sea Angling Report

Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Quarterly report for the period ending August 2019

KEIFCA Progress

EU legal minimum sizes for fish species do not apply to recreational fishing after the EU reviewed the Common Fishery Policy's Technical Conservation Regulation which came into effect on 15th August 2019.

To ensure that undersize fish still have protection under law, KEIFCA have made an emergency byelaw the "Fish, Mollusc and Crustacea Minimum Size Emergency Byelaw 2019", which applies to fish caught within the district.

The latest bass restrictions allow recreational fishers to keep one European sea bass per person per day from 1st April 2019 to 31st October 2019. KEIFCA officers will continue to pass on this information 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

The south Kent beaches have been producing good size soles to a few lucky anglers, with bass, whittings and lesser spotted dogs making up catches. Thornback rays and smooth-hounds are being caught from most of the of the beaches in Kent.

The north Kent beaches have been hard to fish due to the amount of green weed being caught, but have produced bass, smooth-hounds and thornback rays to anglers that have persisted.

Mackerel have turned up in good numbers off both Deal and Dover piers and on the beaches in the south of Kent.

Essex Angling Summary

Soles, bass and thornback rays have been making up the bulk of the catches from the Essex beaches, with whittings and eels providing different species.

Mackerel, thornback rays, smooth-hounds and bass have been coming off the piers through the summer months.

Inner Thames and River Medway Angling Summary

Soles, European eels, flounders and bass are being caught from the River Medway and from the inner Thames. The bass that are being caught have ranged from very small to 6-7lb, with a lot of them being just below the minimum size. It is encouraging that there is such a varied number of year classes being caught.

Boat Fishing

Charter boats throughout the district are catching mackerel, smooth-hounds, thornback rays and bass. There have also been reports of a few cod from the boats in Kent, not many but a small hope for the future. Conger eels, john dories and gurnards are also being caught in the south of the district.

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