

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

Summary: To report on the Recreational Sea Angling Sector in KEIFCA District

KEIFCA Progress

Autumn has brought lots of species for the sea angler to target. Reports of small codling are being reported throughout the District, averaging about 1 to 2lb with an occasional bigger fish which is a promising start to the winter season. Large quantities of small whiting have turned up; these are becoming a pest taking large baits intended for bigger fish.

The latest bass restrictions for recreational fishers are that they are not allowed to keep any European sea bass from the 1st October 2019 until the 31st December 2019; the ban will extend into 2020 awaiting confirmation from the EU. KEIFCA officers will continue to pass on this information to anglers and tackle shops within the District. This latest restriction has once again upset some anglers, with suggestion that there is no need for a closed season for rod and line fisherman.

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

Kent Angling Summary

The southern Kent beaches have been fishing well, with mostly small whiting and lesser spotted dogfish being caught with bigger whiting, thornback rays, pouting, flounders, European eels, bass of all sizes and codlings making the fishing interesting.

Now that the green weed has died back on the north Kent beaches, catches are improving with whiting, lesser spotted dogfish and thornback ray being caught and the occasional bass and codling also being reported.

Both Deal and Dover Piers have been producing mixed bags of fish. There has been an increase in the amount of small conger eels being reported by shore anglers in the last couple of months, these seem more plentiful than in previous years.

Essex Angling Summary

The beaches along the Essex coast line are fishing well with many of the same species that the Kent beaches are producing; hordes of small whiting, although larger whiting have been caught along with lesser spotted dogfish, dabs, bass, the odd dover sole and flounders. A few lucky anglers have caught codling.

The Essex piers are reported to be fishing well, with whiting of all sizes being landed, both lesser spotted dogfish and thornback rays are still plentiful, with the occasional codling.

Inner Thames and River Medway Angling Summary

Codling are being reported from both the Inner Thames and the River Medway, with small whiting, flounders and bass also being caught.

Boat Fishing

The charter vessels in the south of the district have been reporting good sport with plenty of different species of fish coming to the boats - black bream, conger eels, topes and pollack, also, thornback ray, turbot and cod weighing in double figures.

Despite fishing from boats, anglers have not been able to avoid catching whiting and lesser spotted dogfish.

The charter vessels that are fishing in the Thames Estuary are also experiencing good catches, with thornback rays, lesser spotted dogfish and whiting making up the bulk of the catches. Bass are still being caught, these with the odd small codling have been making interesting fishing.

David Deverson
First Mate/Angling Officer