

Agenda item C5
Sea Angling Report
Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
Quarterly report for the period ending November 2020

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

KEIFCA Progress

Despite new Covid 19 restrictions and the latest national lock down, KEIFCA officers have still been able to carry out their shore patrols at angling hotspots, observing both social distancing and anglers and handing out the minimum size ruler sticker when wanted. During these patrols officers have reminded anglers that they will not be able to keep any sea bass after 30 November 2020.

Disappointingly we have carried out inspections on anglers who have had undersize fish in their catches, mostly small whiting, with the excuse that the fish had taken the bait deep and would not survive. In the majority of cases, the officers have reminded the anglers that any fish below minimum size has got to go back. Some instances have warranted further investigation where it has not been appropriate to deal with the matter by way of re-education. These are now being reviewed for further action

Kent Angling Summary

Hordes of small whiting have started to dominate catches along the Kent shoreline along with lesser spotted dog fish and the occasional flatfish.

A very small number of codlings have been caught from beaches in the south of the district.

Bass are still being caught in numbers throughout the Kentish coast with a good mix of sizable and bigger fish being reported.

Folkestone pier has produced a few rays with whittings and lesser spotted dogfish providing back up sport.

Essex Angling Summary

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

Bass of all sizes are being caught, providing good sport for the shore anglers, these have included a few bigger specimens.

Other catches being reported have included lesser spotted dogfish, flounders, and the odd thornback ray.

Inner Thames and River Medway Angling Summary

In both the upper Thames and the River Medway, fishing has been steady. Whiting have started to be caught in large numbers, with other fish such as flounder, lesser spotted dogfish and bass targeted with some success

Boat Fishing

With new Covid 19 restrictions coming into place the charter boats are having to take restricted booking on what is usually a good time of year for them. For those that are able to go to sea, whiting and lesser spotted dog fish are making up the bulk of catches, with some good bass being reported. Thornback rays are still coming to the boats, making interesting fishing. Surprisingly the Ramsgate charter boats have started to see a sprinkling of small strap congers being caught over the rough grounds and from near wrecks. These have ranged in size from a couple of pounds up to 15lb in weight.

D Deverson

First Mate/Angling Officer