

## **Agenda item C5**

### **Sea Angling Report**

#### **Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Quarterly report for the period ending January 2021**

### **KEIFCA Progress**

Due to Brexit and the timing of the finalised deal, the UK government has rolled over the 2020 bass restrictions for recreational fishers so that they are not allowed to keep any European sea bass from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021, then possibly two sea bass per person afterwards. KEIFCA will keep monitoring the situation and KEIFCA officers will continue to pass on this information to anglers and tackle shops within the district.

Despite covid-19 restrictions, KEIFCA officers have continued to patrol and inspect anglers along the KEIFCA shorelines and hand out the minimum size ruler sticker when required. There was some confusion at the beginning of the latest national lockdown as to whether recreational angling could continue. Clarification has now been received that this activity can continue. However a number of sites around the Kent and Essex coasts have been closed to the public restricting where they can fish – Dungeness Estate, Southend pier are all currently closed to the public.

### **Kent Angling Summary**

Shore fishing in the south of the district has been both sporadic and difficult due to covid-19 restrictions and difficult weather conditions, with both strong winds and low temperatures hampering fishing.

Whiting, flounder, rockling and dab are the mainstay catches with the odd thornback ray being caught. Bass are still being caught but are small and low in numbers.

### **Essex Angling Summary**

With the same weather and covid-19 restrictions affecting the Essex coast, the angling here has also been poor, whiting, flounder, dab and lesser spotted dogfish have featured in catches, with the odd small bass and thornback being landed.

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

Low number of small whiting, flounder and bass are being reported as caught from both the Inner Thames and the River Medway,

### **Boat Fishing**

Charter boat angling has been severely impacted by the restrictions put on them as a result of Covid-19 and the latest national lockdown has all but curtailed their operations. Skippers of these vessels Skippers of these vessels continue to be concerned for the future of their industry.

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