



## **Agenda Item C5**

### **Recreational Angling Report**

#### **Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority**

##### **Quarterly report for the period February 2021 to May 2021**

This spring has been cold with persistent winds from a Northerly direction. Despite this, anglers that have put in the effort have found fish throughout the district. During the first week of May the fishing weather improved with anglers finding plenty of fish from both the shore and from boats.

It has been announced by the Dover Harbour board that there will be no angling within its limits and the Admiralty pier is going to be closed to fishing on a permanent basis. The local angling community have started a campaign to have this decision appealed. Dover Harbour board have said that they will look into the decision and see if there is any way they could open up fishing again and what measures would need to be in place for this to happen. The Admiralty pier is one of the best-known angling venues in the country and has had thousands of anglers using it every year for over a century. The loss of this venue will have a huge knock-on effect within the local businesses and will put huge pressure on other fishing marks as the anglers that formerly fished the pier move on to find other places to fish.

##### **KENT BEACHES**

Anglers fishing off the beaches in North Kent have been able to catch a variety of species with good specimens of thornback rays and bass being caught, smoothhounds have just started to show in good numbers. The South Kent Beaches are also fishing well with plaice and dover sole being caught also thornback rays, bass and smoothhounds have been landed. Other species being caught are lesser spotted dogfish, flounders, whittings, and poutings.

##### **ESSEX BEACHES**

Fishing from the beaches in Essex, anglers have been able to catch a variety of species including thornback rays, bass and the occasional smoothhound with some good specimens being reported. Other fish have included lesser spotted dogfish and flounders.

##### **CHARTER BOATS**

When the Charter vessels have been able to go to sea after certain COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, good fishing was reported, with some big fish showing

up. A rare blonde ray 13.5lb caught up the Thames, spurdogs up to 18lb from the charter vessels in the Thames.

All over the district charter boats are reporting multiple catches of thornback rays into double figures, bass of all sizes and with the appearance of smoothhounds it looks like a good season is ahead.

#### RIVERS

Good number of Flounders, and mainly small bass making up the rest of the catch are being reported by anglers fishing the upper reaches of the Thames and the River Medway with the occasional bigger bass putting in an appearance.

David Deverson

First Mate/Recreational Angling Officer