



**Agenda Item C5
Recreational Angling Report
Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
Quarterly report for the period September 2024 - November 2024**

Overview

In the short time since the last report, the fishing has changed. Small mackerel have turned up on the shore in the south of Kent which has brought in predators such as squid and bass. Tuna have been sighted off Dungeness close to the shore in the middle of the English Channel and also in the Thames Estuary. The weather has turned more autumnal with strong winds which in turn has coloured up the sea. This has led to an increase in catches in the district, both in numbers and diversity of species.

KEIFCA Progress

Continuing in my role as the Angling and Commercial Liaison Officer for KEIFCA, I have spoken to an additional 150 anglers, been on 20 more patrols, given out minimum size stickers and business cards and continued to visit tackle shops within the district. I have also been in contact with charter boat skippers, listening to their needs and concerns.

In addition to these regular duties, I have carried out a survey called "Changing Seas" for KEIFCA, which documents the changes in numbers and diversity of species and records changes to the environment over a period of 10 years. The survey is for commercial and recreational fishers; the anglers who have taken part in the survey have had insights into the changes in the district and have been happy to participate.

Kent Angling Summary

Unusually small mackerel appeared at the beginning of October on both Hythe and Dungeness beaches. Whiting and small codling have just started to appear around the Kent coast, hopefully signalling the start of a good winter. Squid are being caught in good numbers around Dover and Folkestone with bass, rays, conger eels and spotted dogfish being caught regularly from the shore. The odd smooth hound are still being caught; these seem to have hung around longer this year.

Essex Angling Summary

Mackerel have been reported from the piers in Essex, along with pouting, whiting and the odd thornback ray and conger. From the various beaches whiting and spotted dogfish are making up the bulk of the catches, with thornback ray, small codling, smooth hound and strap congers turning up to make catches interesting. Dover soles have been caught and bass of all sizes continue to be caught from all venues.

Inner Thames and River Medway

Both rivers continue to provide good sport with bass, spotted dogfish and whiting providing most of the catch and smooth hound and thornback ray with the occasional dover sole are a welcome addition.

Boat fishing

The sport has been varied from the boats over this period with a large number of species being targeted. Bass have been caught in good numbers with 4-5lb fish being caught regularly. Mackerel, conger eels, thornback ray and smooth hound have featured in the catches along with squid. Whiting have been seen in good numbers, unfortunately the average size has been small.

David Deverson

Angling and Commercial Liaison Officer