

Devon and Severn IFCA News

Catch and Release of Bass Starts on 1st December 2021

As of 1st December 2021, all bass caught by recreational fishermen must be returned to the sea immediately if caught.



Council Regulation (EU) 2020/123 was released on the 27th January 2020. Article 10 specifies the measures on European seabass fisheries. These are not byelaw restrictions introduced by D&S IFCA, but they do apply within the D&S IFCA District.

Following nine months of a two fish per day bag limit for recreational fishers, a period of catch and release will apply from 1st December 2021. During the periods of catch and release, recreational fishers are not allowed to retain any bass. Any bass caught must be immediately returned to the water. Although not a specific D&S IFCA Byelaw, D&S IFCA officers can assist the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in enforcing this EU Bass legislation. The Regulation can be viewed in full online by following this [link](#).

The Restrictions:

- January, February and December, it is catch and release only for recreational fishers.
- Two bass fish per fisher, per day during the months March to November inclusive.
- Fixed nets cannot be used to catch or retain bass.

The Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS) of Bass for commercial fishers remains at 42cm. For a list of fish and shellfish sizes that apply within D&S IFCA's District and D&S IFCA's Byelaw Book, click [here](#).

Need more information?

Should you require any further clarification please contact the Marine Management Organisation:

Brixham: 01803 853383
Plymouth: 01752 228001

D&S IFCA has also created a website page that provides more information:

- [Bass Compliance Direction Website Page](#)

Alternatively, you can [contact](#) D&S IFCA on 01803 854648. You can also report any suspicious fishing activity to D&S IFCA on 07740 175479 which is our out of hours number.