

Devon and Severn IFCA News

Catch and Release of Bass Starts on 1st November

As of midnight tonight, all bass caught by recreational fishermen must be returned to the sea immediately if caught.



Following the December Council of Fisheries meeting in 2018, new TAC (Total Allowable Catch) regulations for 2019 were published. Following seven months of a one fish per day bag limit for recreational fishers, a period of catch and release will apply from midnight 31st October 2019.

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 amended Regulation can be viewed in full online by following this [link](#).

The Restrictions:

- Between 1st January and 31st March 2019, it is catch and release only for recreational fishers.
- Between 1st April and 31st October 2019, a bag limit of one fish per day is allowed.
- Between **1st November and 31st December 2019**, it is catch and release only for recreational fishers.

The Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS) of Bass for commercial fishers remains at 42cm. For a list of fish and shellfish sizes, click [here](#) to view the D&S IFCA Minimum Size Guide which can also be found on the D&S IFCA website, under the Enforcement & Legislation tab.

Need more information?

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

Brixham: 01803 853383
Plymouth: 01752 228001

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.

You can subscribe to our free E-newsletter "Inshore Insights" by contacting D&S IFCA.