

Devon and Severn IFCA News

Joint Agency Enforcement Patrol Focuses on Bass

Devon and Severn IFCA team up with the Marine Management Organisation to target illegal Bass retention around Plymouth and the Eddystone.



Enforcement Officers from the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (D&S IFCA) recently conducted a joint patrol with Officers from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

The main priority of the sea patrol was to focus on the areas near the Eddystone Lighthouse, which is a popular place to target and catch Bass. It has been reported that recreational anglers were retaining Bass in this area which is currently prohibited. Whilst in the area officers also inspected several charter and commercial vessels. The regulations for bass such as the recreational bag limit and the MCRS are not byelaws but D&S IFCA does assist the MMO to enforce the legislation. We can report that no bass infringements were detected on this day.

What are the rules?

- Recreational anglers are currently required to release any Bass caught immediately to the sea.
- The Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS) for Bass you can retain is 42 cm
- Information about the current [Bass Compliance Direction](#) is posted on the D&S IFCA website.
- Information about fish and shellfish sizes (MCRS) can be found in the [D&S IFCA Byelaw book](#) (page 35 & 36) which is also posted on the website.
- To retain Bass for commercial purposes you need a Bass Entitlement.

Who to call?

If you have any questions relating to the Bass Entitlement, then please contact the MMO (Brixham 01803 853383) or (Plymouth 01752 228001).

If you have any information about anyone retaining Bass illegally then you can call D&S IFCA (01803 854648) or the out of hours telephone number (07740 175479).

The 07740 175479 number can also be used to report suspicious activity relating to other forms of fishing, many of which are regulated by [D&S IFCA Permit Byelaws](#).