

Devon and Severn IFCA News

Market Inspections and reported Illegal Bass Fishing

Devon and Severn IFCA enforcement officers focus on evening fish market inspections & bass compliance in the Bigbury-on-Sea area.



Enforcement Officers from the Devon and Severn IFCA (D&S IFCA) work a variety of un-social hours and conduct partnership including working with the Marine Management Organisation to achieve different enforcement objectives. Recently, increased spells of evening work have included shore inspections at the Bigbury-on-Sea area and visits to the Plymouth Fish Market to inspect landings.

D&S IFCA operates an intelligence led and risk-based approach to enforcement. Over recent weeks, officers have received increased intelligence that people have been fishing and illegally retaining multiple bass from the shore areas at Bigbury-on-Sea. Although not a locally introduced restriction (Byelaw), D&S IFCA officers assist the Marine Management Organisation in enforcing the EU Bass Legislation.

What are the bass 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.

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. The amended Regulation can be viewed in full online [here](#).

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.

Outcomes and reporting suspicious fishing activity

No offences were detected as a result of the market inspections. Two separate evening shore patrols of the Bigbury-on-Sea Beach area has resulted in 6 inspections of anglers. No offences were detected, but D&S IFCA will continue to encourage the reporting of suspicious fishing activity as strong intelligence can help our enforcement officers plan future operations.

If you would like to report any suspicious fishing activity you can call our out of hours duty phone: 07740 175 479.