

Devon and Severn IFCA News

Success for the IBASS Project

Two large projects which will help improve our knowledge of bass ecology in the South West have reached major milestones this week.



The Immature Bass Acoustic Stock Surveillance (I-BASS) project has successfully tagged 146 juvenile bass in the Taw-Torridge, Dart and Salcombe estuaries. I-BASS is led by Plymouth University and forms part of a PhD funded by D&S IFCA and Plymouth University. The project received over £240,000 of EMFF funding. The tags are acoustic pingers which 'talk' to a series of receivers placed in each estuary to allow researchers to understand in detail how much time bass spend in Bass Nursery Areas and how they use different habitats and areas of the estuary.

The Cefas-led collaborative project Bass Fisheries Conservation UK has launched with a series of regional workshops planned in September and October. These workshops aim to highlight local issues in bass management and areas for collaborative research. If you wish to attend one of these workshops, please contact: sbfc@cefas.co.uk following the workshops Cefas will then design and carry out some of that research. 100 bass will also be tagged with data storage tags in the Devon and Severn IFCA district, to help elucidate large-scale movement patterns of adult fish.

Both these projects form major contributions to the [Devon and Severn European seabass workplan](#), published in 2015 and will contribute to the design of local and national management measures.