

JOINT AC WORKSHOP ON SEA BASS MANAGEMENT

Dublin Castle, Ireland, 18 September 2014



***Jan Willem Wijnstroom & Nigel Proctor
the European Anglers Alliance (EAA)***

European Anglers Alliance



3 million anglers affiliated to EAA's 14 member organisations

Representation in 4 Advisory Councils

- North Sea Advisory Council
- North Western Waters Advisory Council
- Baltic Sea Advisory Council
- Mediterranean Advisory Council

Socio-economic figures



England - Sea Angling 2012 report :

- high-value leisure activity in England
- England 2012 -> £1.23 billion (€1.55 billion)
- Directly supports > 10,400 full-time jobs

Fishing recreationally also provides significant social benefits like relaxation, exercise, and environmental improvement (Armstrong *et al.*, 2013)

EAA 's vision on sea bass management

EAA's Definition on Recreational Angling - 2004

- Rod and line, pole or hand-line (non-commercial; no sale)
- Recreational angling is part of the broader defined sector 'Recreational Fisheries'
- Recreational angling is far the biggest of the recreational fisheries segments in terms of participation and value



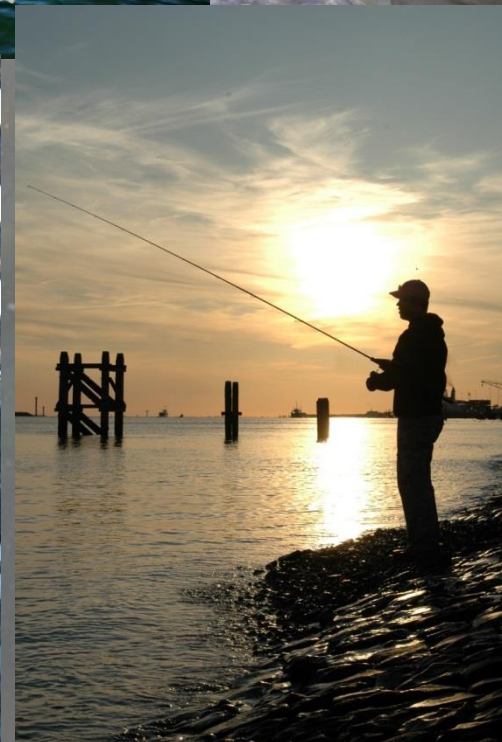


TÁ DOINGEAN FAOI CHOSAINT AN DLÍ
BASS ARE PROTECTED BY LAW



Aire!	Attention!	Uwaga!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ni cheadfaítear doingeán a mhéara atá níos lu ná 40cm ar fhad Ni cheadfaítear níos mó ná 2 doingeán a mhéara leathgh de bhreinneas 24 uair Séasair Coiscéid: 15 Bealtaine go 15 Meitheamh Tá cosc ar dhoingeán a dhéil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is prohibited to kill bass less than 40cm in length It is prohibited to keep more than 2 bass in any 24 hours Closed season: 15 May - 15 June The sale of bass is prohibited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Высшая разрешенная длина морского окуня: 40см Лимит добычи: не więcej niż 2 окуня морские Окунь запрещенный: от 15 мая до 15 июня Заказ запрещенный морского окуня
Attention!	Aufgepasst!	Aandacht!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cas polaisora dólóint obligátoimheant measair níos de 40cm ar fhad Leas péicheáir speisialta, na sunt autorúlada a próibítear agus éasca fáil ar veiteolaíoch de 24 huair It y a une période de fermeture annuelle pour la pêche au bar qui dure du 15 mai au 15 juin La vente du bar est interdite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Das Mindestmaß für einen Wollbarschart beträgt 40cm Angler dürfen innerhalb von 24 Stunden maximal zwei gefangen Fische behalten und mitnehmen Der Schwanen gefist vom 15. Mai bis zum 15. Juni Der Verkauf eines Wollbarschartes ist verboten 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Озагненні забараненыя менш за 40 см в даўжыню У кожнага рыбалова ёсць ліміт у 2 рыбасі ў кожны дзень У гэты перыяд з'яўляецца забаронены продаж морскага аўнуна Да продажы морскага аўнуна забаронена


 Iascach Iníre Éireann
 Inland Fisheries Ireland
 Eolas agus comhairle / Information and advice
www.fishingireland.info
 Tuairascáil póitseáil agus truaillí / Report poaching and pollution (24hr)
 1890 34 74 24



EAA sea bass position paper

Issued in June 2014 following ICES sea bass advice for 2014

- Focus on ICES areas IV b & c, VII a and VII d-h
- Focus on short and medium term measures needed
- No TAC
- Focus on technical measures commercial and recreational fishing
- Proportionality

SEA BASS
UNDER THREAT!
EAA SOLUTIONS

(ICES DIVISIONS IVb,c, VIIa, and VIId-h)

20% BASS STOCKS HAVE DECLINED BY MORE THAN 20% SINCE 2005, REPORTS ICES

2 MILLION TWO MILLION ANGLERS IN WESTERN EUROPE FISH FOR SEA BASS AND BRING MONEY INTO COASTAL COMMUNITIES

200 MILLION TWO HUNDRED MILLION EURO IS THE MINIMUM TOTAL VALUE OF RECREATIONAL SEA BASS FISHING IN WESTERN EUROPE

Irish bass management policy

A large bass fish is shown swimming in clear, shallow water. The fish is positioned diagonally from the top left towards the bottom right. The water is a light, clear blue-green color. In the background, there are some dark, leafy seaweed plants. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a healthy marine environment.

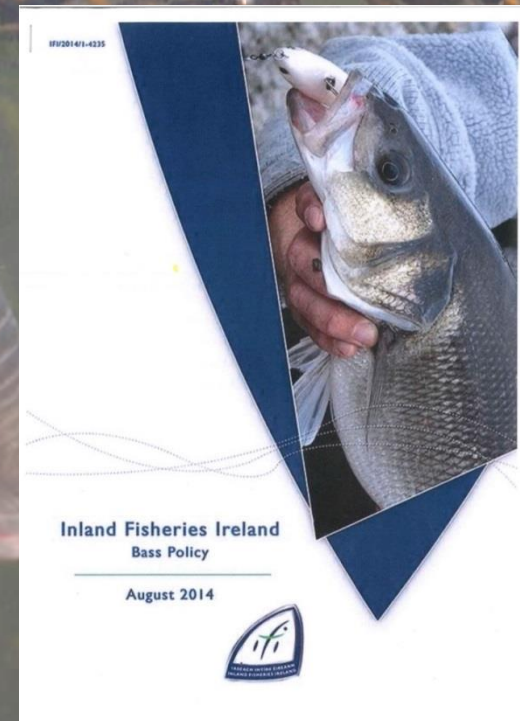
- Excellent illustration of recovery and economic profitability
- High level recognition: bass extremely important and valuable sport angling species
- Bass is an important component of Irelands marine biodiversity
- Irish way of managing this resource offers the best conditions for protection of the species

Irish bass management policy

EAA endorses those conclusions in the Inland Fisheries Ireland Bass Policy, August 2014

which promotes maintaining bass resource as a RSA species only, and requires:

- Increasing MLS from 40cm to 50cm
- Reduction of daily bag limit from 2 to 1 fish daily
- No retention of any bass during spawning period



Background



- Pre-1980's: Bass was targeted exclusively by recreational sea anglers
- 1980's: Commercial exploitation increased significantly
- 1990's: Early signals of decline in bass populations detected and reported by EAA and member organisations
- 2002: EAA called for the cessation of pair trawling on spawning aggregations of bass
- 2005: Bass Anglers Sportsfishing Society (UK) put forward a management plan, which included calls for a higher MLS to reduce fishing mortality of immature bass
- 2014: ICES advise an 80% reduction in fishing mortality

STECF 2014

- Current national measures NOT effective
- STECF 2014 → 60 % reduction in fishing mortality is required in order to reach MSY
- Package of measures required for recreational and commercial fisheries
- Important to consider social and economic impact of measures chosen on both recreational and commercial fisheries

How to implement ICES advice 2015 and STECF report July?

When considering most appropriate bass measures we have to take into account the following:

- Bass are slow growing
- Do not mature until appr 42 cm / 7 years old
- Demonstrate strong site fidelity
- Vulnerable to localised depletion

All of which makes the management of bass challenging


Short term measures - EAA proposal

- Restrictions on targeting spawning bass between January-April in VII e & h in offshore fisheries
 - Closure of offshore fishery would achieve substantial reduction in mortality
- No pair trawling to target bass
- License restrictions: limitation on monthly landings
- Identification of nursery areas and protection for spawning bass in all Member States
- Increase mls 36cm to 42cm commercial fishers and recreational fishers

Recreational Angling Contribution

A large fish, possibly a sea bream, is shown swimming underwater. The fish is dark-colored with a lighter belly and is positioned diagonally across the frame. The background is a murky, greenish-brown water with some seaweed or kelp visible on the right side.

- **Increased MLS** would contribute to a significant reduction in fishing mortality from Recreational Angling.
- **Bag limits** are a frequently used management tool for Recreational fisheries in many parts of the world where:
 - a) Recreational exploitation is fully recognised as a valid and valuable use of fishery resources
 - b) Recreational angling specific objectives are incorporated into all management goals
 - c) Commercial fishing regulations are sufficiently restrictive that levels of abundance and stock structure meet recreational angling needs

A large sea bass is shown swimming in clear, shallow water. The fish is positioned diagonally across the frame, facing towards the bottom right. Its scales are detailed, and its fins are visible. To the right of the fish, there is a cluster of dark brown seaweed with small, round, light-colored fruits. The water is a deep, clear blue-green color, and the overall scene is captured from an underwater perspective.

Recreational sea anglers will only be supportive of conservation measures provided they are proportionate to the scale of the impact of their activity on bass stocks, which are a publically owned resource

Proposed Medium Term Measures



- Improve monitoring/control of bass fisheries at member state level
- Identify and protect bass nursery/spawning grounds
- Improve selectivity in bass fisheries
- Recreational catches to be sampled as required by Data Collection Regulation
- All commercial landings of bass to be recorded
- Cap annual commercial landings as advised by ICES
- Remove the allowance for non recording < 30 kg
- Irish ban on commercial landings to be maintained

Looking Forward

A large fish, possibly a sea bass, is swimming in clear water. The fish is positioned diagonally from the top left towards the bottom right. In the background, there are some seaweed plants with small, round, brownish fruits. The overall scene is underwater and brightly lit.

- Member states should commit to a Long Term Management (LTMP), which takes forward both short and medium term measures
- LTMP should make provision to reward those fleet segments that deliver the greatest socio-economic benefits, with the lowest overall impact to the stock or localised population
- Fully inclusive management strategy which takes into consideration the requirements of all stakeholders
- Robust stock structure

North Sea Coast 1992



North Sea Coast 2011



Thank You



EAA
European Anglers Alliance