

The Socio Economic Impact of Recreational Angling within South East Ireland



wexford
local development
Faisleán Áitiúil Lath Gannair

Fáilte Ireland
NATIONALITY OF DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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Kilmore Quay, Co. Wexford

**South East Ireland's
Sea Angling Centre of Excellence**

Eastern Regional Fisheries Board
Bord Iománaigh Éire, Oirthuaisne



The Business of Recreational Angling in Ireland

- Total direct spending on Irish recreational angling amounts to €555 million.
- Out of state anglers generate a direct spend of €121 million.
- 252,000 indigenous Irish participated in angling year ended 2012.
- 113,000 tourist anglers visited Ireland in 2012 (*Failte Ireland*).
- Average tourist angler spend per visit €858.00.
- Irish recreational anglers spend on average €1,974 per annum on angling.
- 33% of domestic sea angling trips include bass as a possible target species.
- 25% (28,000) of tourist anglers in 2012 targeted bass = €24 million.
- 9% (22,680) indigenous sea anglers directly target bass = €45 million.
- There is evidence of a decline in Irish recreational angling over the past decade. *The 2009 Scottish Government socio – economic report on recreational sea angling found a direct correlation between the decline of fish stocks in the Firth of Clyde and a decrease in sea angler participation numbers.*

Ref: Tourism Development International, 2013



Recreational anglers experienced a dramatic increase in both numbers and average size of bass along Ireland's south east coastline post implementation of the 1990 Bass Conservation Measure.



Catch averages of 1.5 x 2.5 kg bass per hour prompted Jim Hendrick to register and open in 2003 a full time dedicated guiding service specialising in lure and fly fishing for bass along Ireland's south east coast.

South East Angling Ireland

Socio – Economic Impact



1. SEAi clients visited Ireland specifically to catch bass from France, England, Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Italy, Holland, Switzerland, New Zealand, USA.
2. Average annual total of 270 visitor days x €200.00 per day average client spend = €54,000 – filtered into local B/B's, pubs and restaurants.
3. SEAi featured in key angling publications from France, Holland, Germany, England and the USA. With individual readerships in the tens of thousands both County Wexford and Ireland are marketed in a positive light.
4. In 2009 SEAi's website www.bassfishing.ie received 1200 unique visits per day with visitors logging on for an average of five minutes.
5. In 2012 SEAi was runner up to Kelly's Resort Hotel in the tourism category of the Wexford Business Awards sponsored by Wexford Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise Ireland.
6. Jim Hendrick closed SEAi four weeks ago due to a progressive annual decline in bass numbers along the south east coastline.

South East Angling Ireland (SEAi) Bass returns per angling party of three.

Fig.1



Ref: Jim Hendrick, 2014





The harbour of Kilmore Quay located on the south coast of Wexford is home to a fleet of nine licenced charter vessels which fish the reefs, wrecks, and banks, in the area for pollack, wrasse, cod, ling and bass.



3000 sea anglers reside within the greater Swansea area, South Wales. Groups comprising up to 20 anglers make regular annual trips averaging four bed nights to Kilmore Quay specifically to catch bass and reef fish.

Visit of Pleasure Anglers and Kayakers Association (South Wales) group to Kilmore Quay, Co. Wexford, Sunday June 23rd – Thursday June 28th 2013.

A combined total of twenty one members from P.A.K.A. South Wales, *seven of whom had not fished within Ireland before*, travelled to sea fish in and around Kilmore Quay, Co. Wexford.

The group stayed at the Quay House B/B for four bed nights, dining mainly in Kehoe's and The Wooden House public bars of an evening followed by a few pints.

Revenue generated exclusive of travel and sundry expenses:

• B/B, €35.00 x 21 x 4	€2940.00
• Charters, €400.00 x 2 x 3	€2400.00
• Fresh Bait (ragworm)	€200.00
• Terminal tackle, rigs, and frozen bait. (€30.00 x 21)	€630.00
• Lunch (€10.00 x 21 x 3)	€630.00
• Evening meal (Average €20.00 x 21 x4)	€1680.00
• Pints (average over group 4 per night @ €4.00)	€336.00
• Bus collection/return from ferry port	€300.00
• <i>Total:</i>	<i>€ 9116.00</i>

The average spend per angler exclusive of Ferry Travel = € 434.09.

Equating to €759.66 per angler based on a weeks stay.

Repeat trips have already been booked for June and September 2014.

Farmed Bass Production (tons) within Europe 2004 - 2013

Production Tons		Year	Year
Species	Country	2004	2013
Bass	Croatia	1800	3014
	Cyprus	698	1621
	France	4000	1970
	Greece	34,000	48,000
	Italy	9,700	6,800
	Portugal	1,234	400
	Spain	4,700	14,700
	Turkey	26,927	51,600
Total		83,059	128,105

Source: Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (F.E.A.P)

For further information please visit **An Irish Anglers World**, promoting recreational fishing in Ireland.

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