

**NWIFCA Technical, Science and Byelaw
Committee**

7th February 2017: 10:00 a.m.

**AGENDA
ITEM NO.**

9

BASS UPDATE

Purpose: To provide an update for members on the current regulations relating to Bass.

Recommendations:

The report is received

New Regulations

1. Members will be aware that that since 2015 EU wide regulations for the management of Bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) have been published as part of the EUs annual opportunities to fish regulations.
2. It is the same for 2017 with Council Regulation 2017/127. The regulation is prohibitive and captures a wider scope of activity than the previous years. The full regulation is given in Annex 1.
3. In summary the regulation implements the following within commercial fisheries from vessels and from the shore:
 - The prohibition of the retention, relocation, transshipment or landing of Bass inside the 12nm within VIIa
4. The regulation then derogates against that prohibition for the following:
 - A 3% and 400kg by-catch for vessels using demersal trawls and seines
 - 10t from 1st April – 31st December for vessels using hook and line that meet track record requirements
 - 250kg per month for vessels using fixed gillnets that meet track records requirements
5. The three points above represent the only opportunities to retain Bass commercially in 2017.
6. For recreational fisheries from the shore and from vessels the regulation applies the following:
 - Till 30th June 2017 – Bass are subject to catch release
 - From 1st July till 31st Dec 2017 – one Bas per person per day may be retained

Significant Points

- The regulation captures and prohibits all commercially caught Bass caught from ashore for the duration of 2017
- Which (if any) vessels will qualify for the hook/line and fixed net derogations – which is specifically relevant to Byelaw 26/26 permit holder

Head of Enforcement
30th January 2017