

**NWIFCA Technical, Science and Byelaw
Sub-Committee
11th August 2015: 10:00 a.m.**

**AGENDA
ITEM NO.
11**

BASS UPDATE

Background

1. This paper is intended to update members on the current situation regarding Bass regulations. A suite of measures has been introduced since early in the year including:
 - Spawning season pelagic trawl closures
 - The 3 bass per man per day

New Regulations

1. New quota regulations have been applied to Bass stocks that will apply in area VIIa within UK 12nm limit. These have been brought in through Regulation 960/2015 amending the quota regulations (104/2015) are as follows:

Mid water/pelagic trawls	1.5
Demersal gear/seines	1.8
Fixed and drift nets	1
Longlines	1.3
Purse seines	3

2. In addition to this a full ban on all commercial Bass activity has been applied to area VIIa outside the 12nm limit.
3. In addition to this the Minimum Landing Size (MLS) is being increased to 42cm and being referenced as a Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS).

Landing Obligations

1. The significance of the application of quota regulations and an MCRS to Bass is that it will be subject to landing obligations by 2019.
2. Bass will not be included in the 2016 discard plan as this has already been agreed.

Current Enforcement

1. The IFCA has been running a set of regular weekly patrols (diff times/days) specifically targeted at Bass activity.
2. No offences have been detected at the time of writing but Bass runs have not yet started yet and are evidently very late this year.

**Andy Deary
Head of Enforcement
30th July 2015**