

**NWIFCA Technical, Science and Byelaw
Sub-Committee**

12th May 2015: 10:00 a.m.

**AGENDA
ITEM NO.**

7

BASS UPDATE

Background

1. This paper is intended to update members further on the changes to Bass regulations. The paper presented to members at the TSB meeting on the 10th February outlined that the EU commission was making a "renewed and urgent effort" to bring measures into place to protect Bass stocks that have been identified as being under significant threat.
2. The situation is very fluid and this paper will be brought up to date verbally at the meeting.
3. Possible measures that were being discussed were a three Bass "bag limit" amongst other options.

3 Bass Bag Limit

4. A recreational three Bass bag limit has now been brought in at the EU level.
5. The mechanism by which the limit has been enacted has been through an amendment to Council Regulation 104/2015 which sets the TACs and quotas for EU waters etc.
6. Two amendments have been made to 104/2015 to enact the Bass bag limit, a definition of recreational has been inserted in the appropriate section:

"(m) 'recreational fisheries' means non-commercial fishing activities exploiting marine living aquatic resources such as for recreation, tourism or sport."

7. Article 11 has been amended to say:

"Recreational sea bass fisheries in the North East Atlantic

In recreational fisheries in ICES divisions IVb, IVc, VIIa, VIId, VIle, VIIf, VIlg, VIIh, VIIj and VIIk not more than three specimens of Sea bass may be retained per person per day."

Enforcement

8. Under the normal warranted legislation outlined in section 166 of MACAA IFCOs are not warranted to enforce TAC and quota regulations. Four IFCOs have been cross warranted by the MMO (the same who have been cross warranted to enforce EU tech con) and it is hoped that all the remaining IFCOs will be cross warranted in the near future.
9. This regulation will come into force on the 7th May and there will be an educational phase that will last until the 31st May.
10. Members will be updated verbally at the meeting as to the interpretation of this regulation which is being agreed with the MMO.

**Andrew Deary
Head of Enforcement
5th May 2015**