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Sent: Monday, August 20, 2018 7:37 PM

To: MARE CONSULTATION FISHING OPPORTUNITIES <MARE-CONSULTATION-FISHING-OPPORTUNITIES@ec.europa.eu>; george.eustice.mp@parliament.uk; roy.smith@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Subject: Reinstating Recreational Bass Bag Limit

Importance: High

Hi

I am a recreational sea angler who enjoys both the sport and the eating of the catch provided they meet the legal landing size limits. Catching and eating your own fish caught by using the most sustainable methods possible (rod and line) plays a huge part in my sea angling enjoyment.

I am totally dismayed that in 2018 you have taken away a Sea Bass bag limit for recreational sea anglers. This is grossly unfair.

I regularly see commercially caught Sea Bass on my local fish mongers slab at ridiculous prices along with wild Sea Bass on the menu of a pub/restaurant I visit.

According to the current rules the authorities are happy for me to pay money for a commercially caught Sea Bass yet if I go out and am lucky enough to catch a Bass of an acceptable size practising the most sustainable method possible, I am expected to return it to the Sea. This is very unjust and needs to be addressed.

I pay good money throughout the year on fishing tackle and therefore, contribute to the recreational angling industry. To expect me and others who like to eat the occasional Bass that is when we are lucky enough to catch one as I'm afraid it is most definitely not the case that a sea angler catches a Bass every time he/she goes fishing! In addition, how often to working recreational anglers find the time to go fishing in the first place. I'm afraid any figures you are using on the impact recreational have on Bass stocks is grossly inaccurate.

The bottom line it is not fair say I can buy a Bass to eat yet if I catch one myself I have to return it. This has to be addressed and changed by giving us a take limit ASAP.

Yours Faithfully

Robert Bunn