

From: Steve Richards

Sent: Monday, August 20, 2018 9:47 PM

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

Cc: info@saveourseabass.org

Subject: Contribution to the consultation – Citizen

Dear Fisheries Managers,

A Sustainable Sea Bass Fishery

Bag Limit

I would like to see a bag limit given back to Public Sea Anglers and think a 2 fish bag limit would be fair, this doesn't mean I will be taking home 14 fish per week as I don't fish 7 days per week due to work commitments or weather and tidal conditions, also I can often fish many times and catch nothing, because the bass fishery is in such poor state and bass are declining rapidly, so it would be nice to be able to take a bass or two home to feed my family every now and again.

The Public should be considered first, as we deliver the highest Socio-economic benefit + Thousands of jobs are dependent on bass angling.

Commercial Hook and Line Fishers

I would like to see meaningful cuts within the Commercial Hook and Line Fishery. Last years cut from 10 Tonnes down to 5 Tonnes was meaningless, it only sounded good to anyone who knew nothing about the Fishery, it had no impact on helping the the bass stock recover, what would help, but would have little impact on the Sustainable Hook and Line Fishery, would be a cut from 5 Tonnes down to 1.5 Tonnes per year. This would only impact a handful of fishermen.

Fixed Nets-Highly Destructive Gill Nets

These nets Kill 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, they are unsustainable and they are not selective, any undersize fish have to be thrown back dead.

They Kill Sea birds, Dolphins, Seals + they are a Danger to Surfers and Swimmers on the beaches.

Get rid of the unenforceable By-catch allowance completely or bring it into line with other forms of fishing by applying a 10% of catch per trip restriction, which will allow only true By-catch and stop targeting the bass illegally.

The current allowance is being treated by fixed netters as a targeted allowance, because they and the authorities know the law is unenforceable and the authorities admit that they are not even trying to enforce the law.

Spawning Closures

Shut the bass fishery down and make it illegal to land bass between 1st December and the 30th April. April is the peak spawning month and not February and March. This would give bass a far better chance to reproduce and not be targeted during spawning time.

I would like to think that my children and grand children will have the chance to fish for bass as I have done throughout my lifetime.

Never in all my years, did I ever think the bass fishery would be privatised and made illegal for me, a member of the public to take a bass home for my family at the table, but have to throw my fish back only to watch the Commercial fisher catch 5 Tonnes of bass in front of me and me then have to buy one from the fish monger to feed my family. OUTRAGEOUS

Yours Faithfully

Steve Richards