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**Emergency Bass Byelaw – consultation**

Eastern IFCA is considering an emergency byelaw to extend the **prohibition on taking bass by hook and line to include April, May and June**. To determine if this byelaw is necessary and proportionate, Eastern IFCA is consulting with the industry to determine levels of activity and potential impacts on commercial fishers.

Please note that for the decision to consider impacts on commercial fishers, we require the following information from the industry. We appreciate the personal nature of some of the questions but all information collected through this consultation will be confidential and only summary data will be made publicly available.

Please complete and return the following questionnaire to Eastern IFCA (contact details below) by the **24th March 2017**.

**By Post**: Unit 6, North Lynn Business Village, Bergen Way, King’s Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 2JG

**By Email**: mail@eastern-ifca.gov.uk

**Questionnaire**

1. **Personal / vessel details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name:  |  |
| Contact postal address: |  |
| Contact email: |  |
| Contact telephone number:  | Landline | Mobile |
|  |  |
| Vessel Name / PLN: |  |
| Number of crew:  |  |
| Does your vessel have an MMO **authorisation** to fish for bass using **hook and line**?  | **Yes / No** |
| Does your vessel have an MMO authorisation to land unavoidable bycatch of **bass** using **any other methods** (please specify)?  | Fixed gillnets? | Demersal trawl or seine? |
| **Yes / No** | **Yes / No** |

1. **Fishing activity**

**2.1 Bass fishing by hook and line (including long lines)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Please estimate how much **bass** you typically land over a year **by hook and line** (please provide **estimate in kg**): |  |
| What is the annual **value of bass** you catch **by hook and line** (please provide a figure in £): | £ |
| Please estimate what percentage of your total annual earnings is made up of bass (e.g. 10% etc.)?  |  |
| How many fleets of long lines do you use?  |  |
| How long (in metres) is each fleet approximately?  |  |
| Do you target bass specifically using hook and line or fish for them as part of a mixed fishery?  | Target bass only? | Mixed fishery? |
| **Yes / No** | **Yes / No** |
| Please estimate how much **bass** you would expect to land, caught **by hook and line** during the following months (please provide **estimate in kg**):  | April  | May  | June |
|  |  |  |
| What season do you typically catch the most **bass** by **hook and line** (e.g. Spring, Summer etc.)?  |  |
| Please estimate how much of your **bass** catch (caught **by hook and line**) comes from each of the following areas:  | 1. In rivers and estuaries
2. Inside of the six-nautical mile boundary
3. Outside of the six-nautical mile boundary
 |

 **2.2 Other fishing**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Please list all the species you target and catch during a year **using hook and line**:  |  |
| Please list all the fishing methods you use in a year (e.g. fixed nets, pots etc.): |  |
| Please estimate the annual value of your catch other than bass (please provide a figure in £):  | £ |

1. **Vessel capabilities and costs**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| What is the overall length of your vessel (please provide a figure in meters):  |  |
| How far from the shore do you typically take your vessel (e.g. to 3 nautical miles etc.)?  |  |
| What fishing activities do you undertake outside of the 6-nautical mile boundary, if any? (e.g. crabbing, netting etc.).  |  |
| Please provide an estimate of the annual vessel overheads (please include fuel costs, insurance, maintenance costs and vessel payments):  |  |

1. **Other comments**

|  |
| --- |
| If bass fishing by hook and line was prohibited (within six nautical miles) during April, May and June what other fishing opportunities are available to you to make up the shortfall?  |
|  |
| If bass fishing by hook and line was prohibited within the Eastern IFCA district during April, May and June would you look to fish outside of the district (i.e. outside the 6nm limit or within a neighbouring IFCA district) to target bass?  |
| Outside 6nm? | Neighbouring IFCA District? |
| **Yes / No** | **Yes / No** |
| Please use the space below to make any additional comments on the potential impacts of a prohibition on bass fishing by hook and line during April, May and June:  |
|  |