WHELK FISHERY WORKSHOP

KEIFCA will be holding a meeting in Ramsgate on 5 December at the request of the fishing industry. The aim of the meeting is to discuss the current state of the whelk fishery and its future management, including riddling, with the industry.

If you are a whelk fisherman and have not already received an invitation then please contact the office on 01843 585310 or info@kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk if you wish to attend.
RECREATIONAL BASS FISHING

Recreational fisheries in ICES divisions 4b, 4c, 6a, 7a to 7k are limited to catch-and-release only during 1 November to 31 December 2019. These rules apply if you are fishing from a boat or from the shore. For more information go to https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bass-industry-guidance-2019/bass-fishing-guidance-2019#recreational-bass-fishing

MARINE CONSERVATION ZONE DESIGNATIONS IN ENGLAND

Marine Conservation Zones are areas that protect a range of nationally important, rare or threatened habitats and species. There are 91 MCZs in waters around England which were designated in two phases after a process closely involving stakeholders. The first 27 zones were designated on 21 November 2013, 23 sites were designated in the second phase on 17 January 2016, and following consultation, 41 sites and 12 additional features were designated on 31 May 2019.

For details of where these sites are and what they protect go to https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/marine-conservation-zone-designations-in-england#mcz-designations-and-factsheets

COMPLIANCE WITH KENT & ESSEX BYELAWS

We have developed a number of stickers and information sheets that can be used by both commercial and recreational fishermen to check they are landing sizeable fish. If you would like one of these free stickers/information sheets then please ring us or email info@kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk and we will be pleased to send them to you.

If you see anything that concerns you regarding a fishing activity in our district then ring us on 01843 585310.

Kent & Essex IFCA are pleased to support the Port of London Authority’s Cleaner Thames Campaign. For more details on this campaign go to http://www.pla.co.uk/cleaner-thames

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info@kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk with the subject UNSUBSCRIBE
English fishermen and those working in the seafood sector will be able to apply for a share of the new Maritime Fisheries Fund (MFF), which is designed to ensure that the fishing and seafood industry continues to thrive once the UK leaves the EU.

The fund in England is open to applications that:

- support innovation - in technologies to enhance economic growth, increase energy efficiency, reduce environmental impact and improve fishing safety
- improve port infrastructure - so more fish can be landed in UK ports, and help the sector take advantage of new export opportunities after Brexit
- boost coastal communities - by providing benefits to areas that depend on a vibrant and profitable industry
- help the sector adjust - to new arrangements on access and fishing opportunities by improving capacity and capability to exploit new export opportunities and markets, and improve safety on fishing vessels or on shore - funding safety measures that prevent accidents such as new handrails and ladders

This new fund is open for applications in England until March 2022.

Submissions are to be made through the Marine Management Organisation’s dedicated GOV.UK page.

For up to date advice on what to do to prepare for the UK leaving Europe go to: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/exporting-and-importing-fish-if-theres-no-brexit-deal

The next meeting of the Authority will take place on:

Friday 29 November 2019

at Marconi Room, Chelmsford Council Offices, Duke Street, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1JF at 10am.

Among the items up for discussion are:

- 2019 Cockle Fishery management report
- Update on native oyster projects
- Evaluation and schedule of planned research for 2020/2021

Please click here to see our website for the full agenda and reports.