

Latest News.

Many members of the CFSA have expressed their concern with Minimum Landing Sizes (MLS's) that are, for many species, widely regarded as too small. The Cornwall Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (CIFCA) set MLS's for some species whilst others are set nationally and at EU level. The CIFCA have undertaken to review their MLS's and when that happens, the CFSA will have an opportunity to have its say. The MLS's for grey mullet and dabs are particularly low. Meanwhile, there is a National campaign to have the bass MLS increased to 48cm which is equivalent to a 2lbs - 8 oz bass. Coincidentally, the minimum CFSA weight for competitions is $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs but that doesn't mean that a CFSA member can't keep a bass less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs to take home and eat.

So a MLS of 48 cm ($2\frac{1}{2}$ lb) will mean that until stocks are represented by more abundant bass of $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs and over, those anglers who like to take a bass for supper will quite possibly have less of an opportunity to do so over the short term. However, even now, many anglers voluntarily abide by a MLS of $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs or larger. They won't be affected.

Introduced nationally, a 48 cm MLS would result in all those bass currently being killed between 36 cm (37.5 cm in Cornwall) and 48 cm being left to live and mature.

Given the growth rate is roughly 4-6 cm a year, within two years, we will see far greater abundance of 2½ lb and larger bass.

The whole idea is to work towards restoring the structure of bass stocks to how they used to be and commercial catch data shows that Cornwall had far greater numbers of bass over 48 cm a recently as the 1980's. Many older anglers in the Federation also recall bass catches consisting of far larger individuals than today.

The CFSA Conservation Group are overwhelmingly in favour of the proposal and at the last Executive meeting support was widespread with one or two suggesting a two stage increase to 48 cm might be helpful.

It is proposed that the CFSA support the proposed increase in bass MLS to 48 cm (2½ lbs) being lobbied for by the Angling Trust and the Bass Anglers Sportfishing Society. If any members would like to comment, please send me an email.

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