

Firstly, I want to set the record right. The original idea for this demonstration was not mine. I and other anglers have from time to time over the years discussed the option of a demonstration against a number of Government decisions that have negatively impacted our activities but this particular demo was originally inspired by Austin Goldsmith and I am grateful to him. The CFSA was also instrumental in giving this initiative a kick start but it is clear that the widest diversity of sea anglers are here today giving this event the political clout that RSA needs. One of the main considerations of a demo is how many anglers feel motivated to attend. The risk of only half a dozen turning up has to be considered because a low level of support would actually back fire as the authorities and public could only conclude that RSA in general is happy with their lot.

So to see so many here today is incredible. You are obviously NOT happy with what the Minister and his department have done.

Hands up those who are here this morning from outside the County?

There is a saying that goes: All that is required for evil to prosper is for good men to remain silent. For far too long anglers – good men - have remained silent. That is slowly but surely changing. You, here today, are proof that sea anglers have had enough of our sport being ignored. There are those amongst the sea angling community who are critical of anglers who have endeavoured to exert influence on the process of fisheries management. They say

we should keep silent and not draw attention to ourselves. I disagree.

I've been very fortunate and have fished in other parts of the world where RSA is fully acknowledged as an entirely legitimate, valid and highly valuable activity. Where sea angling is afforded its rightful seat at the table with fisheries managers and other stakeholders to determine management objectives, policies and strategies for public fishery resources. The results are stunning. In Florida, all gill netting is banned in State waters. In Massachusetts, striped bass are only allowed to be targeted with hook and line. In the Northern Territories Australia, gill netting of barramundi has been ended in order to provide enhanced opportunities for anglers.

Where ever RSA have secured a better deal for the fish, the environment and ultimately their own activities, that didn't happen by keeping quiet, by keeping their heads below the parapet. The anglers in other parts of the world stood up to be counted and have collectively resourced quality professional representation to look after their interests.

Sea anglers are a motley lot. We fish for a wide variety of motivations – competitions – a feed of fresh fish - fresh air & scenery - thrill and challenge of the hunt -- socially - just to name a few reasons. And many of us at various times fish not just for a single reason but a mix of reasons. Some of us fish from shore. Some from boat and some from both shore and boat. We fish ultra light gear for mullet and we fish 50 lb test boat rods for congers on wrecks. We are indeed made up of many parts and with that

diversity there is naturally the potential for conflict of opinions and with conflict within the sea angling community, our joint voice is weakened. We have to learn to respect other opinions and tolerate working alongside other sea anglers who don't necessarily agree with our own views on issues. That's not easy.

Today our message is quite simple. Fisheries managers should take the scientific advice about bass seriously, and implement measures to ratchet back catches as per the scientific advice. We must protect what remains of bass stocks so as to enable stocks to be rebuilt as and when some decent year classes are produced. In the longer term, bass exploitation must be managed in a far more precautionous way with seasonal closures, spatial closures to the most destructive methods and access to the public bass resource must be determined on environmental and economic criteria with absolute priority of access for hook and line fishing.

We want a future bass fishery that is abundant and representative of a more natural age structure, a stock that will be resilient to environmental ups and downs, a fishery that can truly be labelled as excellent, generating the best socio-economic return on a sustainable basis for UK plc.

OK, you havent come here this morning to hear speeches so let us form an orderly line and visit George Eustice's Constituency office.

Please, remember, our grievances are with the Minister and his department, NOT with the shopping public of Camborne. Please ensure we don't needlessly inconvenience the public whether

walking or driving. The media are here today and the last thing RSA wants is to be shown on TV or reported in the press as being discourteous to the public. I don't imagine any of us want to see mums pushing prams forced off pavements on to roads.

Oh, by the way, I'm not a qualified carpenter so anyone carrying a banner I quickly put together – please be aware they may have splinters and/or protruding staples that could stab your hands. Please be careful.