

NOTES to Resolution On Sea Bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*)

NOTES - Given as explanation to the GA rather than being part of the resolution

Point 1 Whilst we understand that a ban on fishing in the Western English Channel is proposed for February, March and April, the recommendation is written so that it covers all potential spawning areas, for example areas found in the North Sea.

Point 2 EAA is aware that from February 16th 2006 this limit is being strictly enforced by the French Authorities.

Point 3 CEFAS in England has agreed that a 45cm limit will cover most of the fish and allow them to spawn at least once.

Point 4 In the UK a 110mm mesh is being suggested. Both points 4 and 5 are in the UK BASS Management Plan at present being actively discussed with DEFRA by BASS and the NFSA.

Point 5 Self explanatory.

Point 6 There is now a new report referring to the commercial and recreational fishery. This is the "ICES WG New Report 2006, Report on the Working Group of New MOU Species" published in December 2005. In the section on sea bass written by Dr Pawson he makes special reference to bass which support the aims of the EAA Resolution. At paragraph 4.5.1 Dr Pawson states that 'bass is widely regarded as the most important recreational fishing species'

At paragraph 4.8.1 on 'Future Management Considerations' he states that 'uniquely for a European fish species, bass are especially important to inshore artisanal fishers and recreational anglers. Therefore a management regime that results in moderate fishing mortality and produces relatively high abundance of medium-sized and large fish is likely to enhance the socio-economic value of the species (Drew Associates, 2004), in addition to ensuring long term conservation of the resource should environmental conditions become less favourable for good recruitment'

This Resolution and the notes have been updated from the discussions at the General Assembly in Slovenia in 2006, and subsequent agreement over wording with reference to quoting sexual maturity rather than specific size limits to meet the Mediterranean situation where sexual maturity is reached at a smaller size.

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EAA Sea Sub Group, October 2007.