

Proposed bass measures for 2020

The new TAC regulations are expected to be published later in January 2020. In the meantime [current regulations](#) still apply.

This means that in January 2020:

- commercial bass fisheries limits remain as outlined in 2019 bass authorisation letters
- for recreational bass fisheries it is catch and release only

The 2019 bass guidance can be viewed [here](#)

Following the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of the 16-17 December 2019 the MMO expects the following rules will apply to bass fisheries.

Commercial bass fisheries

All commercial bass fishing in ICES divisions 4b, 4c, 7d, 7e, 7f and 7h and in waters within 12 nautical miles from baselines under the sovereignty of the United Kingdom in ICES divisions 7a and 7g will require an authorisation to retain bass. Commercial bass fishing will be prohibited during February to March 2020.

The MMO will be writing to all fishing vessel owners with a revised authorisation to catch and retain bass and will provide further guidance on our website once the 2020 TAC regulations are published. In the meantime, current authorisation letters from 2019 are valid.

Bass will continue not to be subject to the landings obligation. Any bass caught above the quantity a vessel is authorised to land and any undersized bass must be discarded.

There will be changes to the limits that can be landed by authorised vessels:

Recreational bass fisheries

For recreational fisheries, including from shore, in ICES divisions 4b, 4c, 6a, 7a to 7k a limit of two fish per day from 1 March to 30 November 2020 may be landed.

Recreational fishers will be limited to catch and release only during January, February and December 2020.

Full detailed guidance will be published once the TAC regulation are published. For further information please contact:

bass@marinemanagement.org.uk