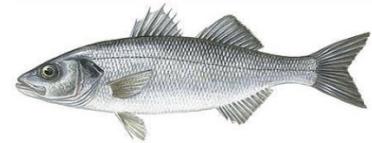


**NB! These are bass related cuttings from a drafted text of 18 December 2019. The final legal text will be published in the Official Journal in January 2020, which may deviate from this text.**  
**@EAA**

---



**Recitals (concerning bass):**

**(9)** According to scientific advice, the spawning-stock biomass of European seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) in the Celtic Sea, Channel, Irish Sea and southern North Sea (ICES divisions 4b, 4c, 7a, and 7d to 7h) has been declining since 2009 and is currently below MSY Btrigger and just above Blim. The fishing mortality, due to the measures taken by the European Union has decreased and is currently below Fmsy. However, recruitment is low, fluctuating without trend since 2008. Therefore, the catch limits should be continued, while ensuring that the target fishing mortality for this stock is in line with maximum sustainable yield.

**(9a)** In accordance with the Western Waters Multiannual Plan set out in Regulation (EU) 2019/472, the target fishing mortality, in line with the ranges of Fmsy defined in Article 2 of that Regulation, is to be achieved as soon as possible, and on progressive and incremental basis by 2020 for the stocks listed in Article 1(1) of that Regulation and shall be maintained thereafter within the ranges of Fmsy, in accordance with Article 4 of that Regulation. The overall fishing mortality for seabass in ICES divisions 8a and 8b should therefore be set in line with maximum sustainable yield, taking into account commercial and recreational catches and including discards (2533 tonnes altogether according to the ICES advice). Member States are to take appropriate measures to ensure that the fishing mortality from their fleets and from their recreational fishermen does not exceed Fmsy point value, as required by Article 4(3) of Regulation (EU) 2019/472.”

**(9b)** Measures for recreational fisheries for European seabass should also be continued, taking account of the significant impact of such fisheries on the stocks concerned. Within the limits of the scientific advice, the catch-and-release practice and the bag limits should be continued. Considering the lack of sufficient selectivity and that higher number of specimens are likely to be caught than the established limits, fixed nets should be excluded. When only the catch-and-release practice is allowed, only the gears ensuring high survival rates should be permitted. Having considered environmental, social and economic circumstances, these measures on European seabass strike an appropriate balance between the interests of commercial and recreational fishers, especially given the dependency of commercial fishermen on this stock in coastal communities. In particular they will allow recreational fishers to exercise their fishing activities taking into account their impact on the stocks.

**Article 10**

**Measures on European seabass fisheries**

1. It shall be prohibited for Union fishing vessels, as well as for any commercial fisheries from shore, to fish for European seabass in ICES divisions 4b and 4c, and in ICES subarea 7. It shall be prohibited to retain, tranship, relocate or land European seabass caught in that area.
2. By derogation from paragraph 1, in January 2020 and from 1 April to 31 December 2020, Union fishing vessels 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 may fish for European seabass, and retain, tranship, relocate or land European seabass caught in that area with the following gears and within the following limits:

- (a) using demersal trawls<sup>1</sup>, for unavoidable by-catches not exceeding **400 520** kilogrammes per two months and **4 5**% of the weight of the total catches of marine organisms on board caught by that vessel **in any single day per fishing trip**;
- (b) using seines<sup>2</sup>, for unavoidable by-catches not exceeding **240 520** kilogrammes per **two months** and **4 5**% of the weight of the total catches of marine organisms on board caught by that vessel **in any single day per fishing trip**;
- (c) using hooks and lines<sup>3</sup>, not exceeding **5,5 5,7** tonnes per vessel per year;
- (d) using fixed gillnets<sup>4</sup>, for unavoidable by-catches not exceeding 1,4 tonnes per vessel per year.

The derogations set out in the first subparagraph shall apply to Union fishing vessels that have recorded catches of European seabass over the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 September 2016: in point (c) with recorded catches using hooks and lines, and in point (d) with recorded catches using fixed gillnets. In the case of a replacement of a Union fishing vessel, Member States may allow the derogation to apply to another fishing vessel provided that the number of Union fishing vessels subject to the derogation and their overall fishing capacity do not increase.

3. The catch limits set in paragraph 2 shall not be transferable between vessels and, where a monthly limit applies, from one month to another. For Union fishing vessels using more than one gear in a single calendar month, the lowest catch limit set in paragraph 2 for either gear shall apply.

Member States shall report to the Commission all catches of European seabass per type of gear not later than 15 days after the end of each month.

4. France and Spain shall ensure that fishing mortality of seabass stock in ICES divisions 8a and 8b from their commercial and recreational fisheries do not exceed the Fmsy point value **resulting in 2 533 tonnes of total catches**, as required by Article 4(3) of Regulation (EU) 2019/472.

5. In recreational fisheries, including from shore, in ICES divisions 4b, 4c, 6a, 7a to 7k:

- (a) **from 1 January to 29 February and from 1 to 31 December 2020**, only catch-and-release fishing with a rod or a handline for European seabass shall be allowed. During that period, it shall be prohibited to retain, relocate, tranship or land European seabass caught in that area;
- (b) **from 1 March to 30 November 2020**, not more than **two** specimen of European seabass may be caught and retained per fisherman per day. This provision shall not apply to fixed nets, which shall not **catch nor** retain European seabass during that period. The minimum size of European seabass retained shall be 42 cm.

6. In recreational fisheries in ICES divisions 8a and 8b, a maximum of **three two** specimens of European seabass may be caught and retained per fisherman per day. This provision shall not apply to fixed nets, which shall not **catch nor** retain European seabass **during that period**. The minimum size of European seabass retained shall be 42 cm.

7. Paragraphs 5 and 6 are without prejudice to more stringent national measures on recreational fisheries.

---

<sup>1</sup> All types of demersal trawls (OTB, OTT, PTB, TBB, TBN, TBS and TB).

<sup>2</sup> All types of seines (SSC, SDN, SPR, SV, SB and SX).

<sup>3</sup> All long lines or pole and line or rod and line fisheries (LHP, LHM, LLD, LL, LTL, LX and LLS)

<sup>4</sup> All fixed gillnets and traps (GTR, GNS, **GNC**, FYK, FPN and FIX).