

## ***Council Regulation (EU) No 2018/120***

### ***Article 9***

#### ***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 on board, tranship, relocate or land European seabass caught in that area.
2. By derogation from paragraph 1, in January 2018 and from 1 April to 31 December 2018, 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 on board, 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 100 kilogrammes per month and 1 % of the weight of the total catches of marine organisms on board caught by that vessel in any single day;
  - (b) using seines<sup>(2)</sup>, for unavoidable by-catches not exceeding 180 kilogrammes per month and 1 % of the weight of the total catches of marine organisms on board caught by that vessel in any single day;
  - (c) using hooks and lines<sup>(3)</sup>, not exceeding 5 tonnes per vessel per year;
  - (d) using fixed gillnets<sup>(4)</sup>, for unavoidable by-catches not exceeding 1.2 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.
4. In recreational fisheries, including from shore, in ICES divisions 4b, 4c, 7a to 7k, only catch-and-release fishing for European seabass shall be allowed. It shall be prohibited to retain on board, relocate, tranship or land European seabass caught in that area.
5. In recreational fisheries in ICES divisions 8a and 8b, a maximum of three specimens of European seabass may be retained per fisherman per day.

(1) All types of demersal trawls, including OTB, OTT, PTB, TBB, TBN, TBS, TB.

(2) All types of seines, including SSC, SDN, SPR, SV, SB, SX.

(3) All long lines or pole and line or rod and line fisheries, including LHP, LHM, LLD, LL, LTL, LX and LLS.

(4) All fixed gillnets and traps, including GTR, GNS, FYK, FPN and FIX. 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.

### What does this mean for commercial fishermen?

1. It is not permitted to fish for seabass during February and March.
2. Trawlers are **not** permitted to target seabass but may retain unavoidable bycatch, provided that the weight does not exceed **1%** of the total catch on board. For example a trawler with 1,000kg of fish on board may retain up to 10kg of bass. The total catch of seabass may not exceed **100kg** per month.
3. Vessels using hooks and lines, which includes longlines, are not subject to a monthly catch limit. Instead an annual limit of **5 tonnes** has been imposed for vessels that have recorded catches of seabass over the period from **1 July 2015** to **30 September 2016** using hooks and lines.
4. Vessels using nets are **not** permitted to target seabass. However an **annual** limit of unavoidable bycatch of **1.2 tonnes** is permitted, provided that the vessel has recorded catches of seabass over the period from **1 July 2015** to **30 September 2016** using nets.

### What does this mean for recreational fishermen?

1. Recreational fishing for seabass during 2018, whether from the shore or from a boat, is on a **catch and release basis only**.

(1) All types of demersal trawls, including OTB, OTT, PTB, TBB, TBN, TBS, TB.

(2) All types of seines, including SSC, SDN, SPR, SV, SB, SX.

(3) All long lines or pole and line or rod and line fisheries, including LHP, LHM, LLD, LL, LTL, LX and LLS.

(4) All fixed gillnets and traps, including GTR, GNS, FYK, FPN and FIX. 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.