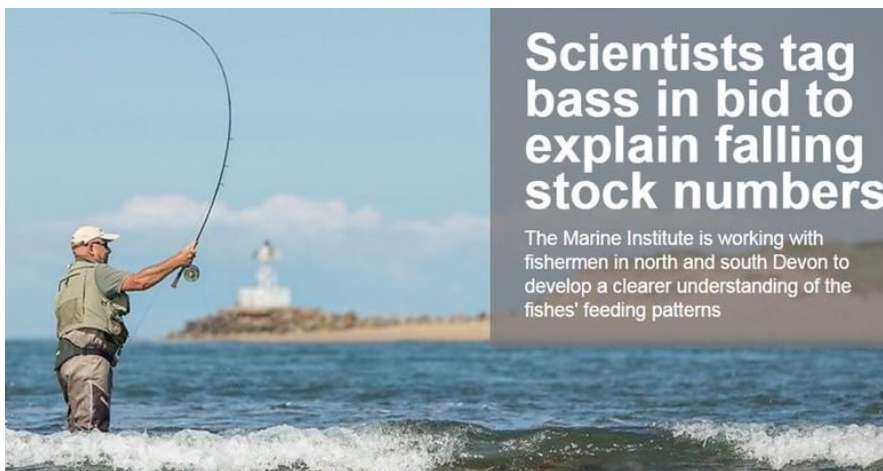


## Project launched to combat drop in seabass stock

Marine scientists at the University of Plymouth with support from Devon and Severn IFCA have launched an ambitious project, funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) to tag juvenile bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) to monitor their movements within and beyond their nursery areas.



The research will enable a greater understanding of the nursery areas protecting the immature bass from capture within commercial fisheries and help to identify the optimum habitats and features required for the juvenile bass to thrive.

“Despite the numerous measures in place to regulate bass fishing, both commercially and recreationally, the decrease of bass stock over the last ten years has been significant,” said Mat Mander, Acting Chief Officer of Devon & Severn IFCA. “With the support of this research project and input from local stakeholders with mark and recapture methods, we hope to improve our understanding of how bass use the Taw and Torridge estuaries, the River Dart and Salcombe Harbour. This study will hopefully help inform the Authority’s future management decisions.”

The fish will be tracked using a network of acoustic sensors to create a picture of their movements and identify key areas of where they congregate and how they use certain habitats within estuaries over the seasons.

For further information about the I-BASS project, click [HERE](#)

