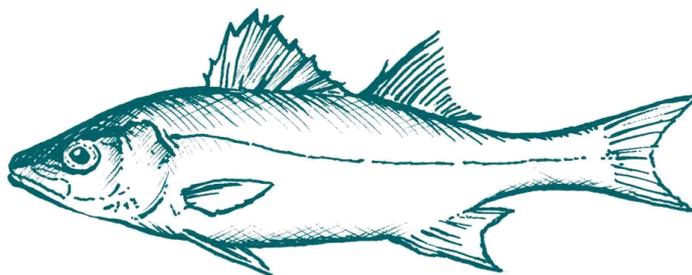


Recreational Fishing for European Sea Bass 2026



This information summarises legislation applied to recreational bass fishing, including from the shore, in terms of its application within the district of the Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority.

Bass retention restrictions

Only catch-and-release fishing for bass using a rod or a handline is allowed during the period from 1 February to 31 March 2026. In this period, it is prohibited to retain, relocate, tranship or land bass.

Outside of this period, recreational fishers remain limited to two fish per day bag limits until legislation is in place to enact the increase for 2026 to three fish per day bag limit agreed in annual negotiations with the EU.

Fishing gear restriction

It is prohibited to retain bass from fixed nets when fishing recreationally.

Minimum size for bass

The minimum conservation reference size for European sea bass is 42cm and is applicable to any bass retained by recreational or commercial fishermen. Any undersized bass must be immediately returned to the sea.

Bass Nursery Areas

Six of the larger rivers and estuaries within the Cornwall IFCA district include areas where fishing for bass from a boat is prohibited, and also where fishing from a boat for any species of sea fish using sand eels as bait is prohibited, at certain times of the year. Please see the chartlets shown below:

Any bass caught when fishing from a boat in the specified areas at prohibited times of the year is to be immediately returned to the sea.



Plymouth Rivers: Closed all year

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 268° True from the western end of Mountbatten Pier to the landing beacon at Wilderness Point.



Camel Estuary: Closed 1 May - 30 November

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 020° True from Stepper Point to Pentire Point.



River Fowey: Closed 1 May - 31 December

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 270° True from Penleath Point to the opposite shore.



Helford River: Closed 1 May - 31 December

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 199° True from Rosemullion Head to Dennis Head.



Fal Estuary: Closed 1 May - 31 December

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 045° True from Weir Point to Turnaware point.

Percuil River: Closed 1 May - 31 December

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 151° True from St Mawes Castle to Carricknath Point.

Please note the above images are only for illustrative purposes and guidance.