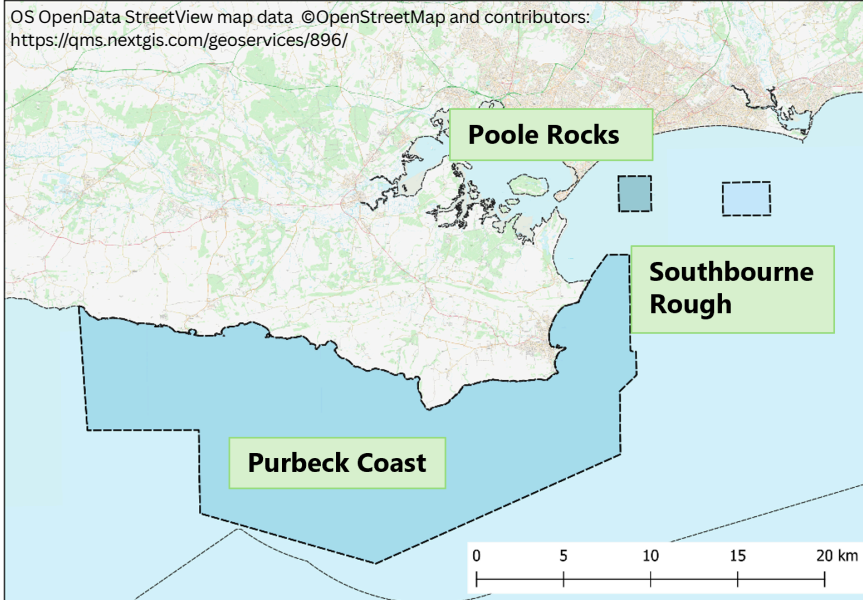
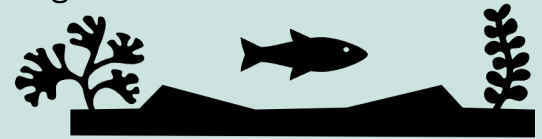


# Southern IFCA Black Seabream Fishery Guidance


Black seabream (BSB) are a designated feature of 3 Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) within the Southern IFCA District - **Poole Rocks, Southbourne Rough and Purbeck Coast**. Co-Developed Principles have been developed to complement existing spatial management and support advancing understandings of the health of the BSB fishery over time with community support.





Southern IFCA has worked closely with industry stakeholders to develop **Co-Developed Principles** that support the long-term sustainability of black seabream populations for the benefit of both the marine environment and fishing sectors. One of these Principles is **'Guidance'** focusing on good fishing practice and handling within BSB fisheries.





## Importance of Black Seabream Fishery Guidance

 Black seabream are a vital recreational and commercial species during the spring and summer months, supporting local economies, and coastal communities.

 The guidance includes recommendations on fishing gear, handling techniques, and care practices designed to improve survivability, through minimal handling time and air exposure.

 By supporting breeding success and ensuring released fish have the best chance of survival, these measures help maintain healthy population levels and secure the future of the fishery for both ecological and economic purposes.

 Consistent handling practices will also support improved data for the fishery over time, helping to deepen our understanding of black seabream populations and the effectiveness of management.

 Responsible fishing practices today will ensure black seabream continue to thrive and support vibrant coastal fisheries and communities in the future.



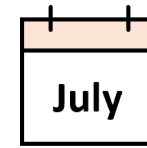
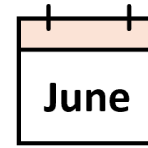
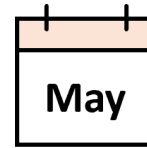
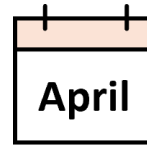
For more information please use the QR code



or visit our website at [www.southern-ifca.gov.uk/black-seabream-fisheries](http://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk/black-seabream-fisheries)

# Southern IFCA Black Seabream Fishery Guidance

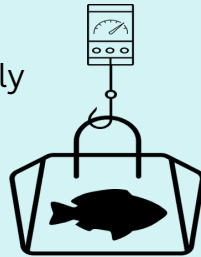
The following guidance applies to **black seabream fisheries** within the **Purbeck Coast, Poole Rocks and Southbourne Rough MCZs** between **1st April and 31st July**, both days inclusive.



## Recommended Equipment

### Use Weighing Slings

instead of handing fish directly on a scale



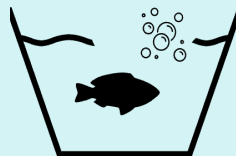
### Choose circle and barbless hooks

to reduce foul hooking



### Keep a large bucket of seawater

onboard for temporarily holding fish that aren't released immediately



### Use a landing net

preferably one with knotless, soft mesh



### Utilise unhooking tools

such as T-bars



## Handling Techniques



**Bring fish up slowly** to minimise stress and potential injury

### Minimise handling

avoid touching fish when possible. If necessary, keep contact away from gills and underbelly and limit air exposure.



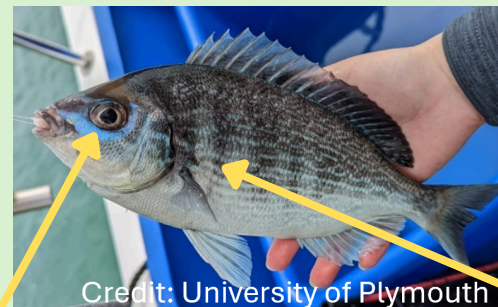
**Always handle with wet hands** or a wet cloth or towels to preserve the protective slime layer

### Allow time to recover before releasing gently

using a net or holding area can help to place fish back gently



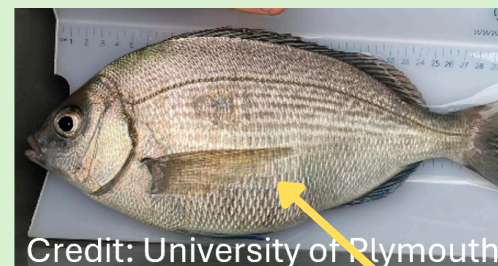
## Care and Ethics



Credit: University of Plymouth

### Return males displaying breeding colours

such as a dark colour with vertical white bars or blue highlighting



Credit: University of Plymouth

### Return roed females

typically shown by a swollen abdomen