



Scottish Sea Angling Conservation Network

Best Value Fisheries Management

Decline in stocks demands Best Value

Fishing down the food chain, over capacity, discards and other factors have depleted traditional stocks.

With limited quotas the catching sector is being encouraged to diversify into non-quota species such as bass, pollack and wrasse as they are regarded as an 'important commercial displacement stock'.

Unfortunately, many of these stocks are of equal interest to the recreational angling sector.

Fisheries management must directly involve the recreational sector.

Uncontrolled exploitation of these species will result in many of the remaining angling service industries - charter skippers, tackle shops, bait suppliers etc. losing their livelihoods.

Recreational species

The Scottish Government needs to take a 'Best Value' approach to stock management, one which recognises there is far greater potential for social and economic value if the goal of fisheries management objectives for certain species were aimed at supporting the development of the recreational sea angling sector.

A "Recreational Species" designation could be applied to many of the inshore species

Recreational fisheries

Governments worldwide have recognized the importance of developing recreational fisheries, Scotland has many locations where such an approach would help regenerate stocks whilst at the same time develop the sea angling sector.

The Firth of Lorne and the Sound of Mull have become the centre for Common Skate contributing £15+ million/yr to the local economy.

Lochs Sunart and Etive attract vast numbers of shore and boat anglers seeking Spurdog, this fishery is also thought to be worth about £15 million/yr.

Tope are worth in the region of £10 million/yr to several communities in Dumfries and Galloway.

Recreational 'Best Value'

Many fish are worth more left ALIVE in the sea than DEAD on the fishmongers slab.



- The tag returns show this Common Skate has been caught eight times.
- Taking into account charter and accommodation fees, this fish has earned Scotland Plc. at least £6000 – **and it is still alive !**
- The same fish would raise just £25 on the fishmongers slab and

When it's gone – it's gone

Anglers are increasingly happy to help try and ensure sustainable fisheries through such measures as bag limits, size limits, seasonal restrictions and other such fisheries management methods.

BUT they do need to be confident their efforts will not be made in vain through valuable resources capable of sustaining recreational fisheries being depleted to support otherwise non-viable fisheries.

We often hear of historic rights for the catching sector – haven't recreational sea anglers historic rights too ?