

Fisheries Information Notice 07-2025

European Sea bass Fishery in the Irish EEZ



AN t-ÚDARÁS UM
CHOSAINT
IASCAIGH MHARA

SEA-FISHERIES
PROTECTION
AUTHORITY

The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority has issued Fisheries Information Notice entitled: **‘European Sea bass Fishery in the Irish EEZ’**

Legislative Basis

- [SI 230/2006 Bass \(Conservation of Stocks\)](#)
- [SI 367/2007 Bass \(Restriction of Sale\)](#)
- [SI 368 of 2007 Bass Fishing Conservation bye-law No. 826 of 2007](#)
- [SI 115/2015 Sea-Fisheries \(Alleviation Measures\) \(Sea Bass Stocks\) Regulations.](#)
- [SI 341/2016 Bass \(Conservation of Stocks\)](#)
- [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/472 Establish multiannual plans for stocks in Northwestern Waters](#)
- [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1241 Technical Measures](#)
- [Council Regulation \(EU\) 2024/257 of 10 January 2024 fixing for 2024, 2025 and 2026 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels.](#)
- [SI 457/2024 Sea-Fisheries \(Quotas\) Regulation](#)[Council Regulation \(EU\) 2025/202 of 30 January 2025 fixing for 2025 and 2026 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters](#)

Introduction

‘Sea bass’ (*Dicentrarchus labrax*);

The FAO alpha-3 code for Seabass is BSS



This document outlines the current regulations within the Irish EEZ in relation to fishery control measures for Sea bass.

Sea bass is a specifically protected species under Irish legislation. Some stocks of Sea bass in ICES divisions 6a and subarea 7, are subject to particular protections in European Union multiannual plan and landing obligation legislation.



It is **PROHIBITED** for any persons to display, offer for sale or sell Sea bass (other than Sea bass imported into the state)



The minimum conservation reference size (MCRS) for Sea bass is 42cm.

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Sea bass Commercial Fishery Control Measures

Irish sea-fishing vessels

It is **PROHIBITED** for the master or a person on board of an Irish sea-fishing boat in ICES subareas 6 & 7 to:



Target Sea bass using nets



Retain, land or tranship Sea bass

- If caught, Sea bass must not be harmed and must be returned to the sea immediately.
- All Sea bass discards greater than 50 kg must be logged.
- Discards of Sea bass must be recorded as '**prohibited species**' using the corresponding three-letter discard code '**PRO**'.

Union fishing vessels

It is **PROHIBITED** for union fishing vessels, as well as for any commercial fisheries from the shore in ICES subarea 7 to:



Target Sea bass using nets



Retain, land or tranship Sea bass



Display, offer for sale or sell Sea bass (other than Seabass imported into the state)

- If caught, any Sea bass taken in ICES subarea 7 must not be harmed and must be returned to the sea immediately.
- All Sea bass discards greater than 50kg must be logged.
- Discards of Sea bass must be recorded as '**prohibited species**' using the corresponding three-letter discard code '**PRO**'.

Derogation for masters of Non-Irish Union fishing vessels

- Non-Irish Union fishing vessels may continue to fish for, retain, relocate, or land sea bass from ICES subarea 6, provided they are duly authorised to do so, as shown in the area coloured in green in Figure 1(b).
- The prohibition outlined above shall not apply to by-catches of European seabass resulting from shore-based commercial netting activities. This exemption is limited to beach nets set at levels established prior to 2017. Shore-based commercial netting operations shall not target European seabass, and only unavoidable by-catches may be retained and landed.
- During **1st – 31st January** and from **1 April to 31 December**, the master of a **Non-Irish Union** fishing vessel operating in **ICES divisions 7d, 7e, 7f, and 7h** (*Figure 1*) may fish for, retain on board, tranship, relocate, or land European seabass caught in those areas, provided the following gear types and limits are observed:

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Gear Types	Limits
(a) <i>Demersal trawls and Seines:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unavoidable by-catches only, Maximum of 3.8 tonnes per fishing vessel per year, and Not exceeding 10% of the total weight of marine organisms on board per <u>fishing trip</u>.
(b) <i>Hooks and lines:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catch limit of 6.8 tonnes per fishing vessel per year*.
(c) <i>Fixed gillnets:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unavoidable by-catches only, Maximum of 1.8 tonnes per fishing vessel per year*.

* **Note:** This derogation applies only to non-Irish union fishing vessels that recorded Sea bass catches using (b) hook and lines or (c) fixed gillnets between **1 July 2015 and 30 September 2016** and have been issued an authorisation by their flag-state which expressly permits Sea bass fishing.

This derogation **does not apply** to masters of Irish sea-fishing vessels, as shown in the area-coloured red in Figure 1(a).

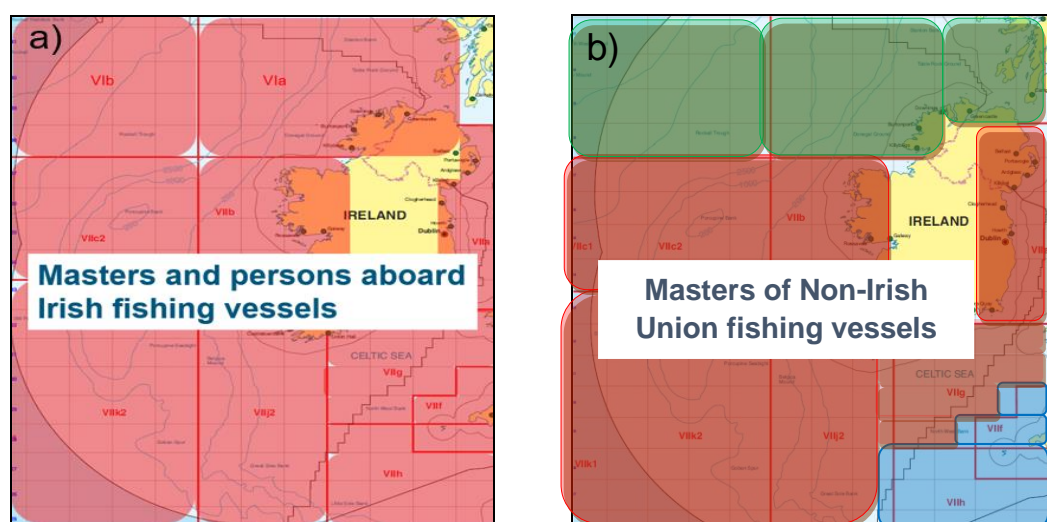


Figure 1: **a)** The prohibitions that apply to masters and persons on board Irish sea-fishing vessels seabass fishing is in the geographic area shaded in red; **b)** The allowances, prohibitions and derogation that apply to masters of non-Irish fishing vessels are shaded in green, red and blue respectively.

Non-Irish fishing vessels are not permitted to fish within the Irish states 12 mile limit, except for certain exemptions that permit access between 6-12 mile limit. Member states access rights are detailed in Regulation (EU) 1380/2013, Annex 1.

Sea bass Recreational Fishery Control Measures

Recreational fishing for Sea bass, whether from a boat or from the shore, is subject to specific control measures. Detailed information on these regulations and how they are enforced can be found on the Inland Fisheries Ireland website: www.fisheriesireland.ie

Contact Details sfpafood&fisheriessupport@sfpa.ie

This fisheries information notice was published on 24/06/2025 and replaces FIN 10 of 2020 Sea bass Fishery

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