2.12

12th May 2009

Dear Sir

Proposed restriction on angler's catches

I am writing to express my objection to the proposed "bag limit" for anglers of five bass in any one day. I am an angler, not an amateur fisherman, and there are a variety of reasons why I feel this proposal should not be introduced.

I do not believe that the limit is being imposed in an effort to conserve fish stocks, if this were the aim then a control of local commercial fisherman plundering the breeding bass stocks congregating off the west coast of Guernsey would be more appropriate. Furthermore, the impact of the average angler on bass stocks is at best minimal.

If a five fish limit is imposed then it will surely encourage the practice of continually returning the smallest fish caught to the sea, dead. There is no mention of this being an unwelcome practice in the proposal. I cannot believe that anglers, as prescribed by the law, throwing dead bass back into the sea has any credibility in the name of conservation.

It seems to me that the issue that this proposal attempts to deal with is the illegal sales of bass and lobster. In this case I find it offensive that a blanket restriction is being considered, with a fine of £20,000 being threatened to ordinary leisure anglers, rather than fining both those amateur fishermen who sell fish illegally **and** those that knowingly purchase fish from unlicensed fishermen in order to cut costs. This is where the real issue lies.

Why not insist that commercial fishermen are issued with an ID card complete with unique identifying number which must be stated on all invoices between fishermen and the person to which they sell.

I ask that common sense prevails and that ordinary anglers are not denied the opportunity to participate in their sport.

Yours,

Mr William Burst