

**BAC & ANGLING TRUST MINIMUM LANDING SIZES  
2021 onwards**

**LATEST REFLECTING MATURITY  
PLUS SIFCA LEGAL MINIMUM LANDING SIZES (UNDER REVIEW)**

**2nd July 2015: EU legal min for Bass raised to 42cms**

<u><b>Species</b></u>	<u><b>Boat AT</b></u>	<u><b>Shore AT</b></u>	<u><b>Legal B + S (SIFCA)</b></u>	
	<b>ins (cm)</b>	<b>ins (cm)</b>	<b>cm</b>	<b>in</b>
<b>Angler fish</b> <i>Lophius Piscatorius</i>	15lbs 8 oz (7kg) (Was 30 lbs)	15lbs 8 oz (7kg) (Was 30 lbs)	Not to be confused with Monkfish	
<b>Bass</b>	18 (46cm)	18 (46cms)	<b>42</b>	<b>16.5</b>
<b>Bream - Black</b>	9.5 (24cm)	9.5 (24cm)	<b>23</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Bream - Gilthead</b>	14 (35cm)	14 (35cm)	Under	review
<b>Bream - Rays</b>	16 (40cm)	16 (40cm)		
<b>Bream - Red</b>	12.5(32cm)	12.5(32cm)	Under	review
<b>Brill</b>	16 (41cm)	16 (41cm)	<b>30</b>	<b>11.8</b>
<b>Bullhuss</b>	31 (80cm)	31 (80cm)	Under	review
<b>Coalfish</b>	27 (70cm)	27 (70cm)	<b>35</b>	<b>13.8</b>
<b>Cod</b>	24 (61cm)	24 (61cm)	<b>35</b>	<b>13.8</b>
<b>Conger</b>	48 (122cm)	36 (91cm)	<b>58</b>	<b>22.8</b>
<b>Dab</b>	10 (25cm)	10 (25cm)	<b>23</b>	<b>9.0</b>
<b>Dogfish LS</b>	24 (60cm)	24 (60cm)	Under	review
<b>Flounder</b>	12 (30cm)	12 (30cm)	<b>27</b>	<b>10.7</b>
<b>Garfish</b>	18 (45cm)	18 (45cm)	Under	review
<b>Gurnard (All)</b>	11 (27cm)	11 (27cm)	Under	review
<b>Haddock</b>	16 (40cm)	16 (40cm)	<b>30</b>	<b>11.8</b>
<b>Hake</b>	17 (43cm)	17 (43cm)	<b>27</b>	<b>10.7</b>
<b>Halibut</b>	22lbs (10kg)	7 lbs (3kg)		
<b>Herring</b>	9 (23cm)	9 (23cm)	<b>20</b>	<b>7.9</b>
<b>John Dory</b>	14 (35cm)	14 (35cm)		
<b>Ling</b>	39 (100cm)	39 (100cm)	<b>63</b>	<b>24.8</b>
<b>Mackerel</b>	13 (34cm)	13 (34cm)	<b>20</b>	<b>7.9</b>
<b>Megrim</b>	10 (25cm)	10 (25cm)	<b>20</b>	<b>7.9</b>
<b>Monkfish</b> <i>Squatina squatina</i>	Illegal to retain (was 15 lbs)	Illegal to retain (was 15 lbs)	Protected	
<b>Mullet</b> Thick L + Thin L	18 (47cm)	18 (47cm)	<b>42</b> Under	<b>16.5</b> Review
<b>Mullet</b> Golden Grey	14 (36cm) Under review	14 (36cm) Under review	<b>36</b> Under	<b>14</b> review
<b>Plaice</b>	14 (35cm)	14 (35cm)	<b>27</b>	<b>10.7</b>
<b>Pollack</b>	20 (50cm)	20 (50cm)	<b>30</b>	<b>11.8</b>
<b>Poor Cod</b>	7 (18cm)	7 (18cm)		
<b>Pouting</b>	10 (25cm)	10 (25cm)		
<b>Red Mullet</b>	9 (24cm)	9 (24cm)	<b>15</b>	<b>5.9</b>
<b>Silver Eel</b>	Return	Return	Note 2	Note 2
<b>Spurdog</b>	Return Note 7	Return Note 7		

<b>All Skates and Rays</b>	See below	See below	40 (Across Wings)	15.7 (Across Wings)
<b>Ray – Blonde</b> ( <i>Raja brachyuran</i> )	39 (100cm) NB Overall length	39 (100cm) NB Overall length	See above	See above
<b>Ray – Cuckoo</b> ( <i>Raja naevus</i> )	23 (59cm) NB Overall length	23 (59cm) NB Overall length	See above	See above
<b>Ray – Small-eyed</b> ( <i>Raja microcellata</i> )	30 (77cm) NB Overall length	30 (77cm) NB Overall length	See above	See above
<b>Ray – Spotted</b> ( <i>Raja montagui</i> )	21 (55cm) NB Overall length	21 (55cm) NB Overall length	See above	See above
<b>Ray – Starry</b> ( <i>Amblyraja radiata</i> )	34 (87cm) NB Overall length	34 (87cm) NB Overall length	See above	See above
<b>Ray – Stingray</b> ( <i>Dasyatis pastinaca</i> )	25 (63cm) NB Overall length	25 (63cm) NB Overall length	See above	See above
<b>Ray – Thornback</b> ( <i>Raja clavata</i> )	33 (85cm) NB Overall length	33 (85cm) NB Overall length	See above	See above
<b>Ray Undulate</b>	Return	Return	78 total length	30 total length
<b>Rockling All</b>	8 (20cm)	8 (20cm)		
<b>Scad</b> ( <i>Trachurus trachurus</i> )	12 (30cm)	12 (30cm)	15 Under	5.9 review
<b>Shad</b> Allis & Twaite	Return Note 4	Return Note 4	Protected	Protected
<b>Smoothhound</b>	33 (85cm)	33 (85cm)	Under	review
<b>Shark Porbeagle</b>	Return (Note 6)	Return (Note 6)	Endangered	
All large Sharks not otherwise listed	Recommended Return	Recommended Return 40 lbs	Under	review
<b>Sole – Dover</b>	14 (35cm)	14 (35cm)	24	9.5
<b>Sole Lemon</b>	12 (30cm)	12 (30cm)	25	9.8
<b>Tope</b>	Must Return	20 Pounds	Illegal to retain from boat (Note 8)	
<b>Triggerfish</b>	12 (30cm)	12 (30cm)		
<b>Turbot</b>	18 (46cm)	18 (46cm)	30	11.8
<b>Whiting</b>	12 (30cm)	12 (30cm)	27	10.7
<b>Witch</b>	12 (30cm)	12 (30cm)	28	11
<b>Wrasse Ballan</b>	11 (28cm)	11 (28cm)	18	7
<b>Wrasse Cuckoo</b>	10 (25cm)	10 (25cm)	Under	review
<b>Unspecified</b>	8 ins & 8 ozs (BAC)	8 ins & 8 ozs (BAC)		

For Notes see next page

(Taken from Angling Trust web site as of May 2021)

## NOTES.

1. The size of sexual maturity for species from the Gadidae family including cod, whiting, haddock, pollack and coalfish (saithe) can vary wildly depending on a number of factors. The figures quoted represent the size at which 50 per cent of fish of these species have reached sexual maturity.
2. An Environment Agency byelaw prevent anglers from retaining the European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*). However, they can be retained for weighing or measuring but must be returned alive to the water they were taken from on completion of fishing.
3. Undulate ray are classified as endangered. We recommend that all fish are returned alive
4. Shad are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and all fish must be returned.
5. Monkfish (also called Angel Shark) are listed under UK Wildlife and Countryside Act and will be protected against killing, injuring or taking (section 9(1)) on land and up to 3 nautical miles (nm) from English coastal baselines. These are not to be confused with the unprotected Anglerfish (*Lophius piscatorius*) whose tails are marketed as Monkfish.
6. Porbeagle are critically endangered in the Northeast Atlantic. We recommend that all fish are returned alive
7. Spurdog are classified as critically endangered in the Northeast Atlantic and we recommend that all fish are returned alive
8. Anglers should be aware that there is a national restriction on landing tope caught from a boat, which includes kayaks, by rod and line. Any boat-caught tope are legally required to be released as soon as possible after capture. (Tope: Prohibition of Fishing Order 2008)
9. Despite the UK now having a small catch quota for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna, the only currently (2021) authorised capture of them is as part of a particular licenced tagging program that is restricted to a small number of licenced charter angling vessels. All skippers that are not part of that scheme must take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna caught alive, especially juveniles, in the framework of recreational fishing". Therefore, recreational sea anglers are obliged to do everything they can to ensure any by-catch is returned to the sea alive. Other smaller species of tuna are not subject to such restrictions.

**BAC has a limit of 8 ins and 8 ozs for any unspecified species for its own records & awards but would assist in any external record claim for a mini-species.**