

Sign up - you know it makes sense!

Interested in joining BASS? **Geoff Gonella**, the society's catch recorder, explains how it all works

BASS is a club for bass enthusiasts and a body that strives for a more rational approach to managing bass stocks.

There is a rule of thumb that a 'body' of any type needs involvement, influence and income. So, has BASS got them? Let's see....

For involvement, there has been a full consultation within BASS to set up a new restoration/conservation capability to continue to represent BASS at high decision-making levels. One of the core principles is (and always has been) to drive up the Minimum Landing Size (MLS) for the fish to have at least one chance to breed before it reaches that minimum.

BASS has also stepped up its own research programme. Apart from ongoing studies into length versus age and abundance of the bass age groups, it has launched its own logbook scheme to record and analyse members' catches. These two research projects will provide data for the new restoration/conservation capability.

BASS members also carry out research into juvenile bass through regular sample netting at key locations in conjunction with CEFAS (the government agency for fisheries science). The society has developed working partnerships with the Salmon and Trout Association, and Irish Bass.

For influence, BASS has members from the UK, Isle of Man, Republic of Ireland, Spain, Germany, USA and Australia. Some big-hitters are affiliated to BASS including the Cornish Federation of Sea Anglers, Guernsey BASS, Poole Bay Small Boat Angling Club and The Herne Bay Angling Association.

And the BASS exhibition team has been very active, especially inland, with stands at the CLA Game Fair, the British Fly Fair International and The Sportfish Show. These give us all the



Getting the message over - Nigel Horsman, of BASS, makes a point to Richard Benyon MP



BASS members carrying out sample netting

BASS sells its book, lure box and clever length/weight tape measure



chance to talk to BASS members about the organisation and what it has to offer. BASS is affiliated to the Angling Trust, with much involvement in the Marine Conservation Committee.

For income, there is a healthy fighting fund for the restoration/conservation work, thanks to donations and fundraising by members. Despite the economic downturn the membership is still over 500, with yet more membership benefits, such as a developing magazine and a new website (see www.ukbass.com).

As well as involvement, influence and income, BASS has other qualities such as insight and ingenuity.

On ingenuity, BASS members have developed the following gifts, which provide income for the restoration and conservation work:

'Bass and B.A.S.S.' is a high-quality hardback book of nearly 300 pages, packed with information, guidance and bass fishing stories. A fine Christmas present at £28 + P&P. As Henry Gilbey says: "...a mine of information and enjoyment... It is impossible to come away from reading this book and not

feel inspired, and I can't personally think of a bigger compliment to give it."

The BASS Tape is a means of measuring the length of a bass and reading off the probable weight. Quick and simple, especially when conditions make weighing difficult. £2.50 each (UK), £2.70 each (EU), post included.

Lure boxes are a good way of keeping your lures stored apart. Made of tough plastic and adjustable in length, they stack nicely when stored. They cost £2.50 each (UK), £2.70 each (EU), and postage is included.

Membership of BASS is a great present to give or receive. Cracking value at £20 for adults, with special rates for senior citizens, juniors, families and affiliates. The quarterly magazines are worth the fee alone. Why not drop a hint to someone? **SA**

Contacts

For further details about the book, visit: www.anglersbookcase.com

Email enquiries:
Geoff@ukbass.com

For tapes, lure boxes and membership, contact Lee Campbell

Email:
campbell1002@gmail.com
Tel: 01446 741783.