Evidence

Rationale

* Short term aim of the bass FMP to set up an evidence sub group of the bass management group. The group must be set up within 2 years of publication for this target to be met.
* The purpose of this group is to review available and emerging evidence to inform the future management of the bass fisheries.
* The group will underpin much of the work taken on by the bass management group, including closed season reviews, catch limits and sustainable harvesting of bass stock.

Objective

* Short term objective
	+ Goal 1 “Inclusive stakeholder engagement structures to inform management of the bass fishery”

Considerations

* What are the evidence gaps that you would like to see being addressed?
* How will the group best assess the evidence that is brought to it?
* Are there any external experts who could usefully feed into this group?
* How can the group best apply its findings to the UK bass fishery?
* Where should future research be taking place?

Role of the BMG

The bass management group will be responsible for deciding the composition and size of the task-and-finish working group, ensuring all viewpoints are represented.

Defra suggests that the following groups are represented within the task-and-finish group:

* Defra
* Marine Management Organisation
* Academics
* Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
* Commercial Fishers
* Defra Bass evidence lead
* External Non-Government Organisations
* Environment Agency
* Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
* Natural England/Joint Nature Conservation Committee
* Recreational Fishers
* Welsh Government

 Do you have any further suggestions for the membership of the group?

Next steps

The task-and-finish group should meet as and when required to review evidence within bass fisheries and discuss further evidence needs. These meetings will be organised and chaired by a selected individual, either from within the bass management group or externally. These meetings should also focus on how the bass management group and the task-and-finish group can address the medium-and long-term bass FMP goals.