



Recreational fisheries is really worth talking about?

The social and economic impacts of this activity

David Mitchell | Chairman | Sea Sub-Group | EAA

Webinar: Recreational fisheries monitoring & control

4 December 2020

**9 Million EU
Citizens**

**1.6% of the European
population**

Is recreation
fishing
important ?

10.5 billion euro

100,000 jobs

* Research for PECH Committee, marine recreational and semi-subsistence Fishing – its value and its impact on fish stocks

10.5 billion EURO in context is...

7% of the annual EU budget or
0.07% of the EU economy.

Roughly equivalent to the cost of the London
2012 Olympic Games

Similar to the contribution from golf (**15 billion Euro**)


100,000 FTEs supported is, in context, almost...

Four times the staff of the EU Commission!

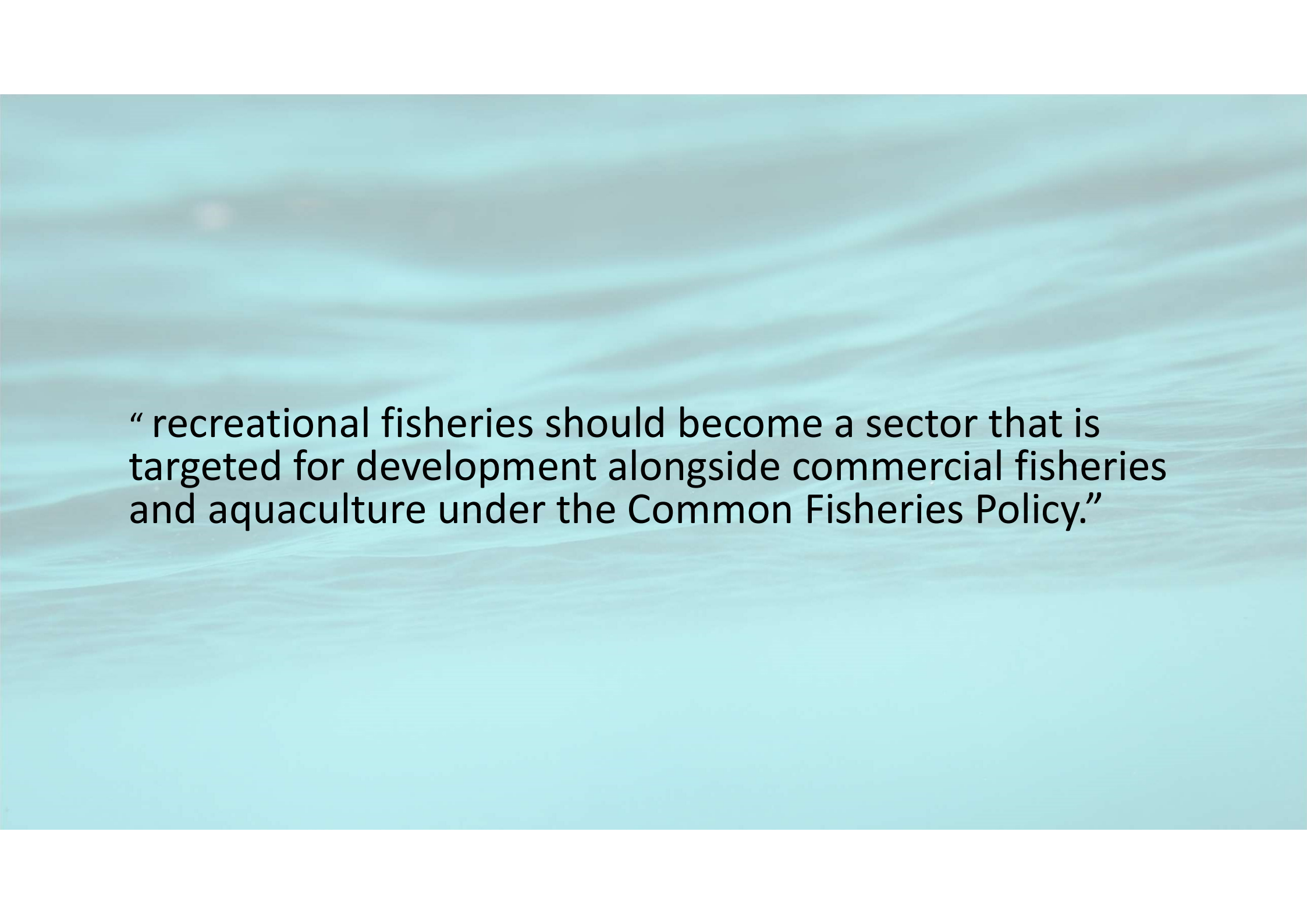
Considered as a single company, in terms of number of employees.

In the top 10 in Europe!

In the top 100 in the world!

The background of the slide is a photograph of a beach. In the foreground, there are rolling sand dunes. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The overall tone of the image is serene and natural.

“The size of the economic impact of marine recreational fisheries within Europe is significant enough to consider the development of a common and stable economic data collection program.”



“ recreational fisheries should become a sector that is targeted for development alongside commercial fisheries and aquaculture under the Common Fisheries Policy.”

Why has this not happened?

Cost?

Lack of awareness?

Resistance?

Political unwillingness?

And yet, MRF already supports the CFP without receiving any support back.

How?



Selective and sustainable fishing

**High post-
release
survival**

**Low
bycatch**

**Very little
seabed
interaction**

High socio-economic value

Supporting deprived coastal communities across the EU

10.5 billion EURO supporting 100,000 jobs

Delivering best return to economies compared to other fisheries sectors



A photograph of an older man with white hair and a mustache, wearing a tan short-sleeved shirt and blue overalls. He is holding a red pencil in his mouth and writing on a blue clipboard. He is wearing black gloves on his left hand. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage and a body of water. The text "Data collection" is overlaid in white on the right side of the image.

Data collection

**Participation in scientific
research**

Science-based decision making

EAA participates on ICES sea bass
benchmarking session – Copenhagen
2016





Strasbourg – European Parliament
2019

Policy development

Brussels – European Parliament 2016



An underwater photograph showing a dense forest of green seaweed or kelp. Sunlight rays penetrate the water from the top left, creating a bright, hazy atmosphere. A single dark fish is visible in the upper right quadrant, swimming among the seaweed.

Ecosystem recovery

Supporting protection from damaging activities such as trawling and dredging

Benefiting from increased biodiversity of fish species and biomass

A large school of fish, likely sea bream, is swimming in clear, blue water. The fish are of various sizes, with some being significantly larger than others, suggesting a healthy and diverse stock. They are all facing towards the right side of the frame. The water is a deep, clear blue, and the lighting is bright, creating a sense of a healthy, thriving marine environment.

Healthy stocks

MRF is reliant on healthy stocks and has been championing sustainable management of stocks for decades

Prioritise Public Access For Fishing Opportunities



Championing the right of EU citizens to have access to publicly owned fishery resources

“But MRF is included in the CFP!”, we hear you say.

Data collection

Multi annual plans

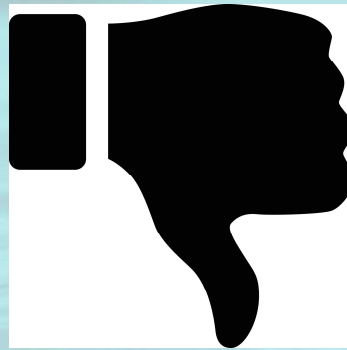


CFP Inclusion
through

MSY

Control regulation

Yet MRF is not recognised as a full stakeholder
and part of the catching sector in the CFP?



This 'half-in, half-out' status, where inclusion is only based around control and monitoring, must end!

Can the EU afford to include MRF in the CFP?

Wrong question!

As a 10.5 billion EURO industry with untapped growth potential

Can the EU afford not to?

Olivier Portrat, CEO of EFTTA,
the European Fishing Tackle
Trade Association



The View From The Industry



The Tackle Trade

- 2,900 fishing tackle specialized companies
 - several thousands of specialized tackle dealers and sport shops
 - Annual turnover: ca. 2 billion EUR
 - Serves Europe's 25 million sea- and fresh water anglers
-

EFTTA is a Trade Association for Manufacturers and Wholesalers of sportfishing equipment.



EFTTA runs the annual European fishing tackle trade show 'EFTTEX' – where hundreds of companies from around Europe exhibit each year (*business-to-business*)



EUROPEAN FISHING
TACKLE TRADE
EXHIBITION

Brussels Expo
13-15th June 2019

THE TRADE SHOW THAT WORKS FOR YOU





Data needed for fisheries management, policy makers and industry

- Angling (rod and line fishing) is in Europe by far the most common form of recreational fishing
- The huge participant and economic figures quoted above by Mr Mitchell (9 mill participants, 10.5 billion EUR, 100,000 jobs) concern almost entirely recreational angling alone – and only marine.
- Other recreational fishing practises are net, trap, spearfishing...
- I speak for the industry providing the tackle to recreational anglers (rod and line fishers)



More, and more robust data needed

- More and better data are needed for policy makers and managers to be able to manage the recreational fishing sector 'fair and equitable'
- Not only catch but also economic and social data are needed

How to get more and better data?

- **A pan-European socio-economic study needed every five years**

- As it happens in the US
- EU management of recreational fisheries is not supported by robust science and facts; no baselines, no trend data - but 'lots of politics'
- More, and more robust data is needed regularly (trends) to be able to show if and how management measures impact the recreational sector - catch and economy
- Such data is also very welcomed by the industry - for production and marketing
- Concept model on the next slide

- **Improve product statistics, how?**

- Would happen 'automatically' if a small **excise tax** on recreational fishing tackle, and eventually also on recreational boats and fuel was introduced – as in the US.

(in US the tax generated in 2019 close to 1 bill dollars - to data collection, conservation projects...

www.doi.gov/pressreleases/sportsmen-and-sportswomen-generate-nearly-1-billion-conservation-funding)

Concept model for a pan-European study

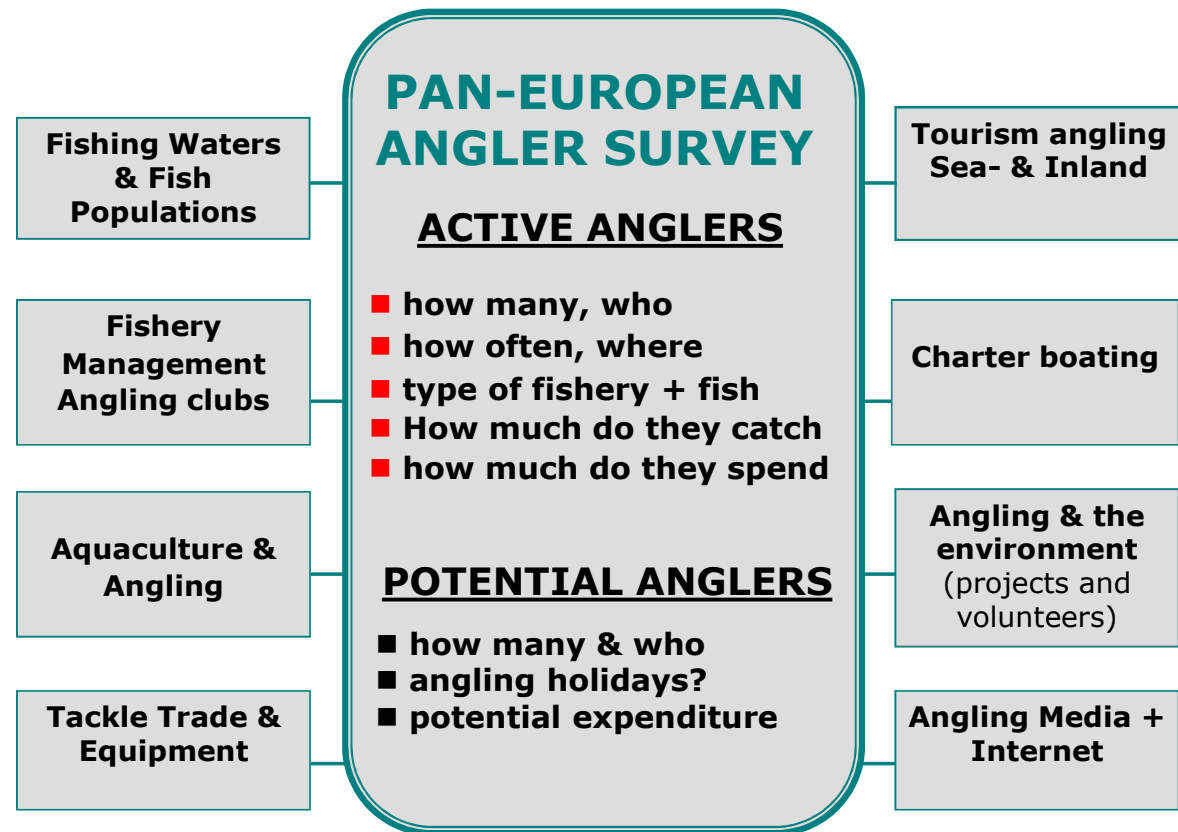
Elements from this model

can be selected to form the backbone for a genuine pan-European study.

Not as expensive as some would believe:

Total cost every five year: xx

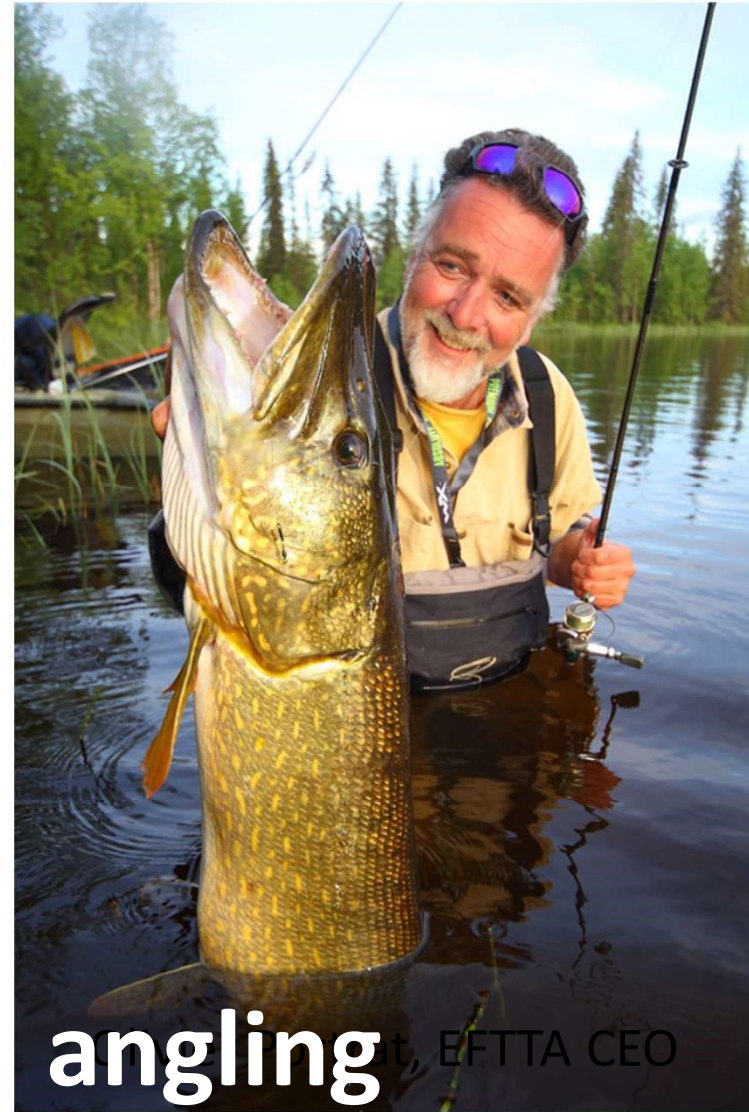
- xx divided by 5
- shared by 27 or more countries, and funds



Thank you for your attention!



The joy of



angling

at, EFTTA CEO