

# The importance of socio-economic data for legislators, managers and businesses

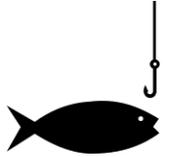
European Parliament, Brussels, March 8<sup>th</sup> 2017



Jean Claude BEL CEO European Fishing Tackle Trade Association



# Content:

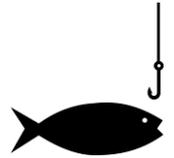


- What is recreational fishing?
- Its motivation factors
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- Good recreational angling means lots of job
- Recreational angling is good for tourism and rural economy
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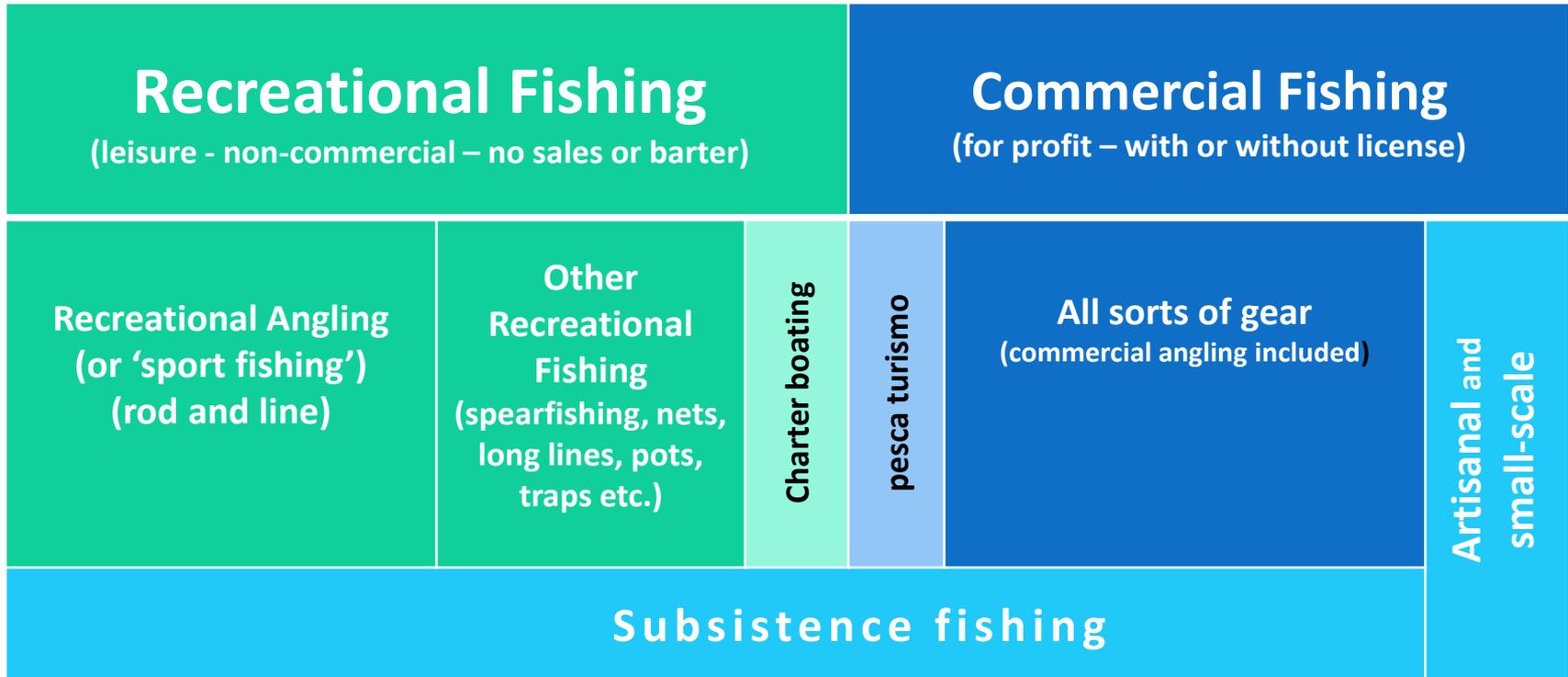


# What is recreational fishing?

**Boundaries between fishing categories:  
Recreational-, commercial- and subsistence fishing**



- Figure by EFTTA and EAA

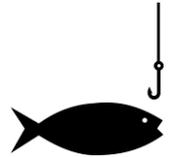


Read more here: [www.eaa-europe.org/topics/what-is-recreational-fishing](http://www.eaa-europe.org/topics/what-is-recreational-fishing)



# What is recreational fishing?

## *Motivation factors*



***Recreational Angling is not just ‘fishing for fun’ as some people claim. It serves multiple purposes, which the angling dependant businesses know all about - and fisheries managers ought to know much more about.***

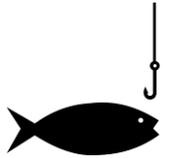
**A number of studies\* show that motivations are**

- Relaxing in the outdoors at the waterside,
- It create social links (family members, friends)
- Experiencing a natural setting with diverse spawning habitats, fish refuges, and shoreline structure
- Enjoying clear water and nice environment while fishing
- Being untroubled in an environment that is hardly disturbed by humans
- Catching fresh fish for own/family consumption
- Catching ‘the big one’ as a dream

\* An example: “On the Apparently Striking Disconnect between Motivation and Satisfaction in Recreational Fishing: the Case of Catch Orientation of German Anglers”; by Robert Arlinghaus [www.besatz-fisch.de/adaptfish/dn\\_pres.php?id=11&email=](http://www.besatz-fisch.de/adaptfish/dn_pres.php?id=11&email=)



# Recreational Fishing is Healthy



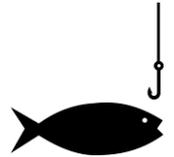
- ❑ It contributes to people's life quality.
- ❑ Studies show that the time spent outdoor with friends and family are very important factors for health and well being.
- ❑ It strengthen the families and communities links by sharing precious moments and fun.
- ❑ It brings our sedentary youth away from their PCs and playing machines. Elderly and disabled people go angling too!
- ❑ Angling (re)connects people with nature.



Recreational fishing shows a huge diversity by engaging all kinds of people, all ages and income groups, and involves many types of fishing techniques, in various aquatic environments targeting a variety of fish species.



# Socio-economic value of recreational angling - EU and USA



## EU figures:

- ❑ **2,900** Manufacturers and wholesalers are trading in the industry.
- ❑ **12,900** retail shops and sport shops serve more than **25 to 30** million anglers.
- ❑ About **€ 2 to 3** billion turnover in the tackle trade sector alone
- ❑ More than **€ 25** billions are spent by anglers (sea anglers alone: **€ 8-10** billions ) in tackle shops, on boats, electronics, clothing, fishing tourism, fishing spots and lodges, travels, charter boats , fishing guides, charters , hotels, gas, services, port taxes, licenses etc.

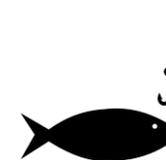
## USA figures:

[http://asafishing.org/uploads/2011\\_ASASportfishing\\_in\\_America\\_Report\\_January\\_2013.pdf](http://asafishing.org/uploads/2011_ASASportfishing_in_America_Report_January_2013.pdf)

- ❑ Approx. 60 mill anglers of which 46 mill are estimated to fish in a given year
- ❑ Anglers generate \$48 billion in retail sales
- ❑ \$115 billion impact on the nation's economy.
- ❑ Generates \$15 billion in state and federal taxes
- ❑ More than 828,000 jobs are supported through recreational fishing



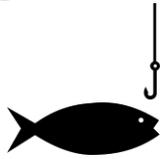
# Good recreational angling means lots of jobs



- ❑ It supports hundreds of thousand jobs :
- ❑ In industry, trade and tourism.
- ❑ In local administrations.
- ❑ Very much in rural areas where it is hard to find a job.
- ❑ It contributes to the rural and coastal economies and maintain local facilities and services.
- ❑ Some people's choice of where to live is linked to good fishing possibilities.



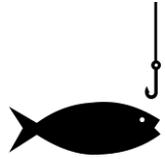
# Recreational angling is good for tourism and rural economy



- ❑ Europe's thousands of lakes and rivers, the very long coastline and its mighty seas provide an excellent basis for recreational angling tourism.
- ❑ Today, the potential is not developed or utilized to its fullest extent – far from it.
- ❑ Hundreds of specialized tour operators are operating in that sector but there could be many more.
- ❑ We do see an increase in fishing related destinations inside and outside Europe but there is potential for much more in all European countries.
- ❑ Fishing related tourism can bring jobs and economy to rural areas.
- ❑ Example Ireland: Angling tourism brings in more revenue than golf. In 2012 150,000 angling tourists visited Ireland, spending approximately €280 million: [www.fisheriesireland.ie/Press-releases/inland-fisheries-ireland-launch-public-consultation-on-national-angling-development-plan.html](http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/Press-releases/inland-fisheries-ireland-launch-public-consultation-on-national-angling-development-plan.html)
- ❑ Healthy fish stocks and plenty of big fish is attractive to any angler. That requires fisheries management, which has recreational fisheries at heart!



# EU funding example: angling tourism project, Southern Baltic Sea



<https://southbaltic.eu/-/catch-coastal-angling-tourism-a-development-chance-for-the-south-baltic-region>

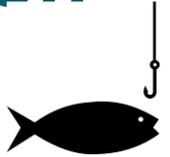
- “**CATCH** will increase the capability of coastal communities to establish sustainable angling tourism, deliver improved measures for touristic providers and will combine all new knowledge in an innovative information and knowledge platform on **coastal angling tourism**.”

. **This will result in an increased popularity of coastal angling in the SB Region and will strengthen the economic welfare in this less developed regions.”**

- **Project total eligible budget: 1.596.700,47 EUR**
- **ERDF: 1.327.205,24 EUR**
- **Project start date: 27 Jul 2016**



# Recreational Fishing - some EU legislation



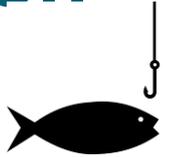
## ❑ The EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)

- ❑ Only one mention - in a recital (!); Recital 3:  
“Recreational fisheries ”can have” a “significant impact(...)on fish resources and Member States should, therefore, ensure that they are conducted in a manner that is compatible with the objectives of the CFP.”
- ❑ At the latest CFP reform the European Parliament suggested to include recreational fishing explicitly in the scope for the CFP, but the Council rejected that. See the parliament's proposed amendment 60:

[http://cfp-reformwatch.eu/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/CFP\\_Basic\\_reg\\_3-column\\_document\\_revised\\_5-March.pdf](http://cfp-reformwatch.eu/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/CFP_Basic_reg_3-column_document_revised_5-March.pdf)



# Recreational Fishing - some EU legislation



In spite of this poor recognition of recreational fishing in the CFP an increasing number of EU legislative acts have been adopted to regulate and to restrict recreational fisheries e.g.:

## □ The Data Collection Framework (DCF)

Commission Implementing Decision - multiannual Union programme 2017-2019:

[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L\\_2016.207.01.0113.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2016:207:TOC](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_2016.207.01.0113.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2016:207:TOC)

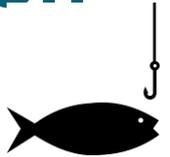
- Concerns recreational fishing for cod, salmon, seatrout, sea bass, eels,, pollack and elasmobranchs, Bluefin tuna and other 'highly migratory ICCAT species'



# Recreational Fishing - some EU legislation

## COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1224/2009

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:343:0001:0050:EN:PDF>



### CHAPTER V

## **Control of recreational fisheries**

Article 55 - Recreational fisheries

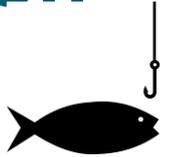
(..)

2. The marketing of catches from recreational fisheries shall be prohibited.

3. Without prejudice to Regulation (EC) No 199/2008, Member States shall monitor, on the basis of a sampling plan, the catches of stocks subject to recovery plans by recreational fisheries practised from vessels flying their flag and from third country vessels in waters under their sovereignty or jurisdiction. Fishing from shore shall not be included.



# Recreational Fishing - some EU legislation



- ❑ EU management measures on recreational fishing for bass and Western Baltic cod in 2017
  - ❑ **Sea bass:** Catch and release first half of the year, and one bass per day bag limit second half of the year
  - ❑ Open 10 months a year for commercial fishing ...

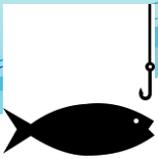
***NB!** The Commission had – on our request – suggested a monthly bag limit this year to provide anglers with some flexibility and a precious data collection project, Unfortunately, the ministers declined. We keep working on an electronic compulsory log book system ,*

- ❑ **Western Baltic cod:** Bag limit 5 cod per day

**It is a 'new thing' that recreational fishing is catch restricted like this at EU level. Anglers are frustrated about the justification, or lack of it, compared to what has been required by the Commercial sector, which anglers point as the sector that overfished these fish stocks and consequently should be the sector to « pay the price » for that.**



# Conclusion: The needs



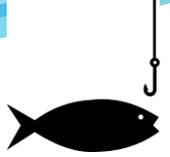
EU's data collection legislation provides too little socio-economic data for proper management of recreational fisheries – in particular economic data is lacking.

Member States do their own studies but scarcely and ad hoc. A few do it regularly e.g. Sweden and Finland.

- ❑ **We urge that a financial solution is found to secure a comprehensive EU wide socio-economic study to be conducted every five years as it happens in the USA.**
- ❑ We believe the cost won't be prohibitive taken into account that the cost will be spread on 5 years and 28 Member States. Such a recurring study is necessary and good for legislators , managers as well as existing and new businesses making a living on recreational fishing.



# Conclusion: The needs



**EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is biased towards commercial fishing and aquaculture.**

The fish is a public resource, and should be managed as such.

Recreational fishing provides much more per fish than the commercial sector but this is not reflected by any CFP article, to the contrary. However, as shown on the previous slides, recreational fishing is legislated increasingly at EU level but only of interest for its »over estimated « catches with no sufficient consideration offered to all the jobs, economic output and happiness the sector generates.

- We urge that the next CFP reform confirms what is happening already by including recreational fisheries in the scope of the CFP – but on a equal footing with the other fisheries sectors, commercial fisheries and aquaculture.**



# Thank you and do not forget ...

## Life is short. Go fishing.

