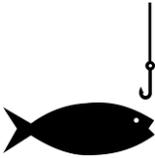


The economic and social importance of angling in the EU in terms of people involved and economic and social value



Brussels March 25th 2015

"Recreational sea angling has a great development potential but unfortunately it has not enough been taken into consideration in the CFP"



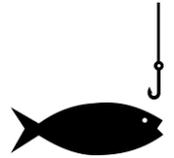
Jean Claude BEL CEO European Fishing Tackle Trade Association



Recreational fishing shows a huge diversity and involves many types of techniques, environments, fish species, populations, ages and income levels



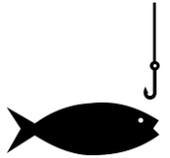
Recreational fishing plays an important role in the European economy and society



- ❑ **2900** Manufacturers and wholesalers are trading in the industry.
- ❑ **12 900** retail shops and sport shops serve more than **25** millions anglers. About **€ 2.5** billion turnover in the tackle trade sector alone.
- ❑ Over **€ 20** billions are spent by anglers in tackle shops, on boats, electronics, clothing, fishing tourism, fishing spots and lodges, travels, charter boats and fishing guides, hotels, gas, services, port taxes etc..
- ❑ Recreational angling generates significantly **more net economic output per kilo fish** than other fish exploiting sectors, and the environmental impact is miniscule.
- ❑ "Recreational sea angling has a great development potential but unfortunately it has not enough been taken into consideration in the CFP"



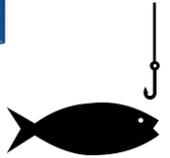
Recreational fishing means lots of jobs



- ❑ It supports hundreds of thousand jobs :
- ❑ In industry, trade, distribution 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.
- ❑ The choice of where to live is often linked to good fishing possibilities.



Recreational fishing is sustainable and supports nature conservation



- ❑ The recreational angling community fights for the aquatic environment i.e. water quality improvement, free flowing rivers, healthy fish stocks etc.
- ❑ Anglers are society's "Eyes and Ears" in the aquatic environment, often the first ones to discover and bring cases of pollution incidents and abusing practices.
- ❑ Anglers are linked between generations passing on knowledge and skills about nature and conservation to the next generations.
- ❑ Anglers spend on a voluntary basis millions of hours on nature conservation and restoration projects, fish monitoring and tagging, restocking programmes, kids education and more.

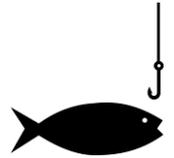


Recreational Angling is Healthy

- ❑ 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.



Fishing supports 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:
- ❑ Healthy fish stocks and plenty of big fish is attractive to any angler. That requires fisheries management, which has recreational fisheries at heart!



Bibliography and links

- Negotiation text of the current Common Fisheries Policy (cf. amendment 60 proposed by the European Parliament on RecFishing):

http://cfp-reformwatch.eu/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/CFP_Basic_reg_3-column_document_revised_5-March.pdf

- Information about the study by Tourism Development International (TDI) in Ireland, 2015:

<http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/Press-releases/inland-fisheries-ireland-launch-public-consultation-on-national-angling-development-plan.html>



Thank you and do not forget ...

Life is short. Go fishing.

