

Slide 1

Thank you chairman,

On behalf of EAA I would like to thank our chairman Mr Cadec for providing us with the opportunity to have this sea bass event here today in the EU parliament. Your presence here and that of the Commission and members of the EU parliament proves that EAA 's initiative to dedicate this 2nd meeting to sea bass management is very well timed and well understood. My presentation will focus on the way forward to a LTMP advocated by the European Anglers Alliance EAA.

But first let me introduce myself. My name is Jan Willem Wijnstroom, working for the Royal Dutch Angling association Sportvisserij Nederland on policy subjects in the marine environment. Within EAA I am responsible for the representation of EAA in the NSAC and as well as for the sea bass issue. It is a real an honour for me to be offered the opportunity to represent EAA 's vision here at this event.

Slide 2

- The European Anglers Alliance (EAA) is the pan-European organisation for recreational angling, which defends European recreational anglers' interests at the European level. The EAA was launched in Brussels in 1994. Its mission statement is to safeguard the fish stocks and fisheries of Europe, and to protect the interests of all those who fish with rod and line for recreational purposes. »
- EAA has a strong representation in the ICES areas around Ireland, UK, Belgium, Holland and France.

From the inception of RACs EAA has been active in all of the 7 Advisory Committees ("the old RACs"). Relevant AC's for the sea bass area where EAA in participate are **North Sea Advisory Council and North Western Waters Advisory Council**

Slide 3

This is how recreational sea bass fishing started: the first documented catches by recreational fishermen date back to 1820/30 when salmon fly fishermen caught sea bass on artificial flies. This must have been in a estuary like situation where sea bass were found together with migratory species like salmon, feeding on shrimps and baitfish. History tells us that those salmon fishermen rated their first bass on rod and line even higher than salmon. Strong, big fish and probably also good for he table, assuming that these fish were not caught and released as is the case today.

Slide 4

Bass fishing has evolved over the years as can bee seen on these recent pictures taken in Ireland, France, UK and Holland. Happy anglers, big fish, a regulated fishery in the case of Ireland as the picture on the left shows. Catch and release of a good bass

caught in Holland. Not because of any regulation, but because of the attitude of the angler, who rates the experience of tempting a big fish to take his lure, fight it and release it carefully to fight another day, higher than killing the fish and taking it home to eat.

But despite the fact that the practice of C&R is growing EU wide, there are still numbers of sea anglers for whom retaining a self caught, wild fish for consumption at home or amongst friends is still an essential part of the sea angling experience. Sea fish are a public resource and what is better than to have access to this resource and catching your own fish and provide yourself family or friends a healthy meal from this resource.

Slide 5

Estimates on catch and release from various MS. Source Imares

Slide 6

Trends in the sea bass fishery

Pre-1980's: Bass was targeted predominantly by recreational sea anglers

1980's: Commercial exploitation increased significantly caused by the introduction monofilament nets/pairtrawling spawning areas, high prizes, bass as gourmet table fish. Another cause was reduction quota commercial species and the fact that bass had no quota.

These developments resulting in higher landings and growing fishing effort were more or less masked by the fact that we benefited from a succession of good year classes at that time and by an more northerly expanding sea bass stock.

At the same time there is growing awareness amongst anglers on the finite nature of the resource. Less bigger fish are reported, the first sign of overexploitation of the stock.

The commercial fishery becomes a recruitment fishery

In Ireland overfishing was already the case by the 1980's, resulting in a closure of commercial landings in 1990

Slide 7

This graph shows the declining proportion of fishing mortality due to recreational fishing and conversely the increasing proportion of fishing mortality from commercial fishing. Various commentators have drawn attention to the 25% of mortality from RSA as 'significant' as if this is a problem. If it is, then the 75% mortality from commercial fishing that is three times as 'significant' must be a bigger problem.

In UK, MAFF Laboratory Leaflet No 75, it is reported that CEFAS/CEMARE research found that between 1987 and 1993, even with a 20% increase in the number of recreational bass anglers (and a 40% in bass angling expenditure), retained catches remained the same. During the same period, commercial bass landings doubled.

Slide 8

Over the past years concern on the downfall of bass stocks grew. **EAA urged EU commission to take measures to stop pair trawling 2000**

UK Bass Anglers Sportfishing Society: management plan, higher mls, which was withdrawn under pressure from the commercial industry.

ICES advised landings to be stabilised which did not happen and with the 2014 advice it became clear that our bass stocks were in deep trouble. **EAA issued sea bass position paper June 2014** ICES areas IV b & c, VII a and VII d-h

Short and medium term measures

Messages No TAC -> proportionality

Slide 9

Emergency measures 2015: stop pelagic trawling: welcomed by EAA, EAA has pushed for that since 2001. Ends 1 May. One of the drawbacks is that the protected area is limited to ICES areas IVa & b, VIIa,d-g and displacement of effort to adjacent areas such as VIIIa & b has already taken place.

EAA is very concerned over what will happen in future years.

Slide 10

EAA welcomes EU Commission's focus on socio economics recreational sea bass angling

Realistic -> **CFP fails in this respect recreational sea anglers don't exist.**

These socio economics connected to rsa were already mentioned by STECF in the July 2014 bass report

Slide 11

The communication from the EU Commission on the 2015 emergency measures has figures on the socio economics in UK and France for RSA.

The UK figures come from the Sea Angling 2012 report that acknowledges that sea angling is high high-value leisure activity in England, involving more than 10,000 direct livelihoods. There a various studies and figures regarding the socio economics regarding sea bass. Most these are related to Data collection research and studies are still running.

One of the latest reports is **UK Blue Marine Foundation report carried out by MRAG Ltd.: *Defining the economic and environmental Benefits of Seabass (Nov 2014)*** ->

The final economic output per tonne of bass retained in Sussex is almost 40–75 times higher for recreational bass fisheries than for commercial bass fisheries. The employment generated per tonne of bass retained is 39–75 times higher for the recreational bass fisheries than for the commercial fisheries.

Slide 12

The final economic output per tonne of bass retained in Sussex is almost 40–75 times higher for recreational bass fisheries than for commercial bass fisheries. The employment generated per tonne of bass retained is 39–75 times higher for the recreational bass fisheries than for the commercial fisheries.

-

Slide 13

The imposition of a 3 bass bag limit was expected. After the December proposal which was 1 bass the result of the recent decision is more realistic.

Now that the three fish recreational bag limit has become law it is essential that the measures under discussion for commercial fisheries such as monthly vessel limits, a new bass MLS of 42cm and seasonal closures, are implemented without delay. It is disappointing that the recreational bag limits and new rules on commercial catch limits were not introduced at the same time.

Our French EAA member advocates another baglimit methodology. Mr Jean Kiffer the next speaker will explain about that more in detail.

Slide 14

A higher mls (MIN 42 CM) or in the current cfp mcrs NEEDS TO BE IMPLEMENTED FOR RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL FISHERIES.

We know the EU commission is working very hard to realise a package of commensurate measures that includes a higher mls and a monthly cap on landings for all metiers. We urge the Commission and ms to give the highest priority to this third tranche that is necessary to save our bass stocks. The longer we delay, the more severe the pain will be and the longer it will last.

Slide 16

EAA communication on baglimit at the joint AC sea bass conference September 2014

Bag limits are a frequently used management tool for Recreational fisheries in many parts of the world where:

- a) Recreational exploitation is fully recognised as a valid and valuable use of fishery resources

- b) Recreational angling specific objectives are incorporated into all management goals
- c) Commercial fishing regulations are sufficiently restrictive that levels of abundance and stock structure meet recreational angling needs

Slide 17

Too frequently, commentators appear to propose restrictions on recreational fishing more readily than on commercial fishing. Marine fisheries resources are public societal renewable resources and their use for commercial exploitation should be regarded as secondary in importance to the responsibility to look after the resources themselves. The right of public access to public resources should be better appreciated. Indeed, the well documented failures of the CFP over many decades due to commercial overfishing has had a negative impact on the entirely valid use of public fishery resources by society.

Too often, recreational exploitation is held out as a problem, whereas, it is actually part of the solution if management objectives incorporate the requirements of RSA.

Slide 18

Striped bass are a close cousin of our European sea bass, similarly long lived and late maturing. They are now managed jointly for commercial and recreational exploitation. The recreational fishery results in \$2.4 billion of recreational sea angler expenditure which provides over 64,000 livelihoods. All this from just one species! Anglers from across the globe visit the coastal areas to sport fish for striped bass.

The EAA looks forward to the time when the CFP fully recognises the true validity and value of RSA for management of the limited number of species that are both targeted by recreational anglers and commercial fishers. The species 'striped bass' on the eastern seaboard of the United States was overfished in the 1970's to the point where a five year moratorium was required. As stocks recovered, an increasing proportion of exploitation was allocated to RSA who now enjoy almost 90% of annual exploitation. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) are on record as stating that the Restoration of Striped Bass stocks is the most successful example of rebuilding a depleted fin fish stock in the history of North America. \\\

Thank you