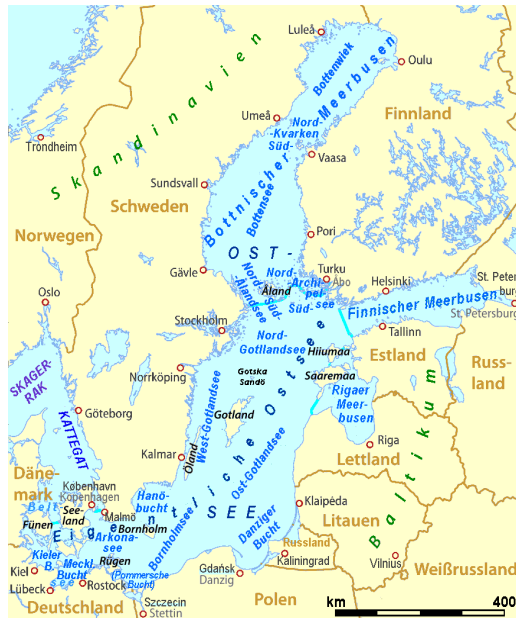


## Angling in the Baltic and North Sea – German case by DAFV (Deutscher Angelfischer-Verband e.V)



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## 1. Angling organisations in Europe

### European Anglers Alliance (EAA)

[www.eaa-europe.org](http://www.eaa-europe.org)

**3 mln. members**

Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, England, Ireland, Norway, Netherlands, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy (assoc. members: Estonia, Latvia, Scotland, Wales)

**Office: Brüssel**

### European Anglers Forum (EAF)

[www.euroangler.eu/about.html](http://www.euroangler.eu/about.html)

**3,5 mln. members**

Germany, Croatia, Czech Republik, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, France, Italy, Swiss, Austria, Belgium

**Office: Budapest**

## 2. Angling in Europe

### 2.1. Numbers

1. 25 million anglers ~ 6.5 million organised anglers
2. 8-10 million sea-anglers

### 2.2. Socio-economic Importance:

1. **EUR 20 billion; expenditures** (equipment, licences, accommodation, transfer, charter etc.)
2. **Creating around 100,000 jobs** (directly and indirect)
3. **Germany: EUR 5.3 billion \* 52,200 jobs** (Prof. Arlinghaus, 2004)

**In some European countries the angling sector has more socio-economic value than commercial fisheries.**



### 3. Timetable of MPA's designation

**Year 2007:** Proclamation of six Marine Protected Areas (MPA) without establishing management plans for these areas

**20.01.2016:** Six proposals in a form of regulations to designate strict Nature Conservation Areas (NPA) with total ban of angling, despite lack of scientific justification (\* next slide)

**23.02. 2016:** Public consultation of stakeholders including NGOs in Hamburg

**July 2016:** Revision of the six proposals, decreasing the protected territory, but sustaining a total angling ban in the NPAs

**26.8.2016:** Petition submitted by Thorsten Wichmann to the German Parliament:  
No angling bans!

**27.9.2017:** Final signing of the regulations and entry into force of the ban on angling



- \* - The German Ministry for the Environment, Natural Conservation and Nuclear Safety invited DAFV to a public consultation regarding the six new regulations.
- Six NPAs in the North Sea and Baltic Sea in the German EEZ serve as the implementation of Natura 2000 areas.
- The territories of NPAs designated by the Ministry are enormous. For German anglers of the highest importance are proposals in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania- Kadetrinne with 100 km<sup>2</sup> (near Rostock) and Pommersche Bucht, and Rönnebank with 2.090 km<sup>2</sup> (with Adlergrund, Westliche Rönnebank, Pommersche Bucht with Oderbank). There other NPAs are Doggerbank 1.700 km<sup>2</sup>, Borkum Riffgrund 625 km<sup>2</sup>, Sylter Außenriff – Östliche Deutsche Bucht 5.600 km<sup>2</sup> (in the North Sea) and Fehmarnbelt 280 km<sup>2</sup> (in the Baltic Sea).

## 6. Map of the NPAs' proposal in the EEZ (20.1.2016):



## 7. What is to be protected?

### What are the objectives of designing NPA's?

To collect data and secure or restore the ecological situation of the area, particularly regarding: **morphodynamic** (reliefbuilding process), **marine makrophyts** (higher waterplants); stocks of **whales, seals** and some kinds of **seabirds** and a network of the **benthic society** (society at the sea ground), as well as, **sturgeon** and the **twaite shad** (*alosa fallax*).

Example: **Pommersche Bucht**: conservation of the sea area as a whole: hydro- and morphodynamic, makrophyts, whales, seals and sea birds and benthic kinds.



## 8. What is forbidden?

### **Forbidden:**

1. Storing of dredged material,
2. Establishing and organising of aquaculture,
3. Introduction of non-indigenous animals and plants,
4. Recreational angling.

**The first 3 bans are logical and acceptable, but number 4?**





## 9. What is still allowed in the NPAs?

### Examples

- projects and measures which directly serve the management of the nature conservation areas
- air traffic, navigation, military use permitted under international law, marine scientific research subject to § 5 and professional sea fishing,
- plans and projects for energy power from water, stream and wind, for searching, exploration of natural resources, for constructing and organising pipelines and underwater cables.

Before approval of new plans and projects, environmental assessment must be conducted, that the conservation objectives for those areas will not be compromised by this project/plan.



## 10. Conclusions:

**While offshore-windpower, exploration of natural resources and construction of pipelines and cables in the sea are possible – even though these projects probably are not in line with the conservation objectives of the areas – recreational angling is not allowed!**

**This is not appropriate. Drastic, but still permitted projects will have an impact on flora and fauna in the protected areas.**

**The fact that angling cannot take place in these areas without violating the protection objectives is not right and should not happen without conducting a proper impact study.**

**The second revision of the proposals (July 2016) did not provide any verifiable scientific justification for establishing an angling ban and are therefore also unacceptable.**



## 11. Details 1:

- We are of the view that the need for designing the MPAs and the implementation of the Habitats and Birds Directives is absolutely necessary and correct.
- Whether the implementation of these directives require designation of Nature Protection Areas (NPA) is discussable. In our opinion the directives do not require that per se.
- Angling can take place also within NPAs as long it does not violate the conservation objectives of the NPA.
- Two areas of the German Baltic Sea coast, Wismarbuch and Greifswalder Bodden, are good examples of voluntary anglers engagements.



## 11. Details 2:

### Recreational Angling completely banned all year!

- To our great surprise a scientific justification why a total ban is necessary is missing.
- There is no data in the protected areas on numbers of anglers, angler boats and frequency of occurrence, or impact assessment.
- There is no data concerning the concentration of sea birds in these areas.
- Expert from the German Ministry for Environment raised the issue that in two areas (Kadettrinne and Pommersche Bucht - Rönnebank) none or only few anglers are active. Why is there a need for an angling ban in these areas then?



## 12. What are the objectives of designing NPAs

- to collect data and secure or restore the ecological situation of the areas particularly for: specially **morphodynamic** (relief building process), **marine macrophytes** (higher waterplants), populations of **whales, seals** and **seabirds** and a network of the **benthic zone** (zone at the seabed), **sturgeon species** and the **twaité shad** (*alosa fallax*).

### 13. What are the objectives to ban angling in these areas?

to collect data and secure or restore the ecological situation of the areas particularly for:

**morphodynamic** (reliefbuilding process),

**marine macrophytes** (higher waterplants);

populations of **whales, seals** and some kinds of **seabirds** and a network of the **benthic zone** (zone at the seabed)

**sturgeon** and the **twaite shad (*Alosa fallax*)**

(new protection aim: **cod** (not on the list of FFH), which is mistakenly taken by the Ministry for a major food source of protected species)

**>>> Recreational Angling has no or negligible impact on the conservation targets mentioned above >>> No Angling ban!**

There has been a lot of pressure coming from different stakeholders (members of the German parliament, protests, petitions etc) in order to change the total angling ban.

## 14. Conclusions

The view, that angling is violating the objectives of MPAs and NPAs is not properly justified and cannot be without conducting proper studies. The revised drafts of the NPAs' Regulations did not provide a satisfactory solution to recreational fishers.

That is why DAFV submitted a petition to the German Parliament hoping that a reasonable and scientific justification prepared by DAFV would prevail over lack of evidence.

**Unfortunately, this was not the case and the only remaining solution seems to be seeking legal remedies against the discriminative and unjustified national measures.**





**Thank you for your attention.**