

Does the EU need to include recreational fisheries in the CFP? A scientific perspective

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Why is marine recreational fisheries important?

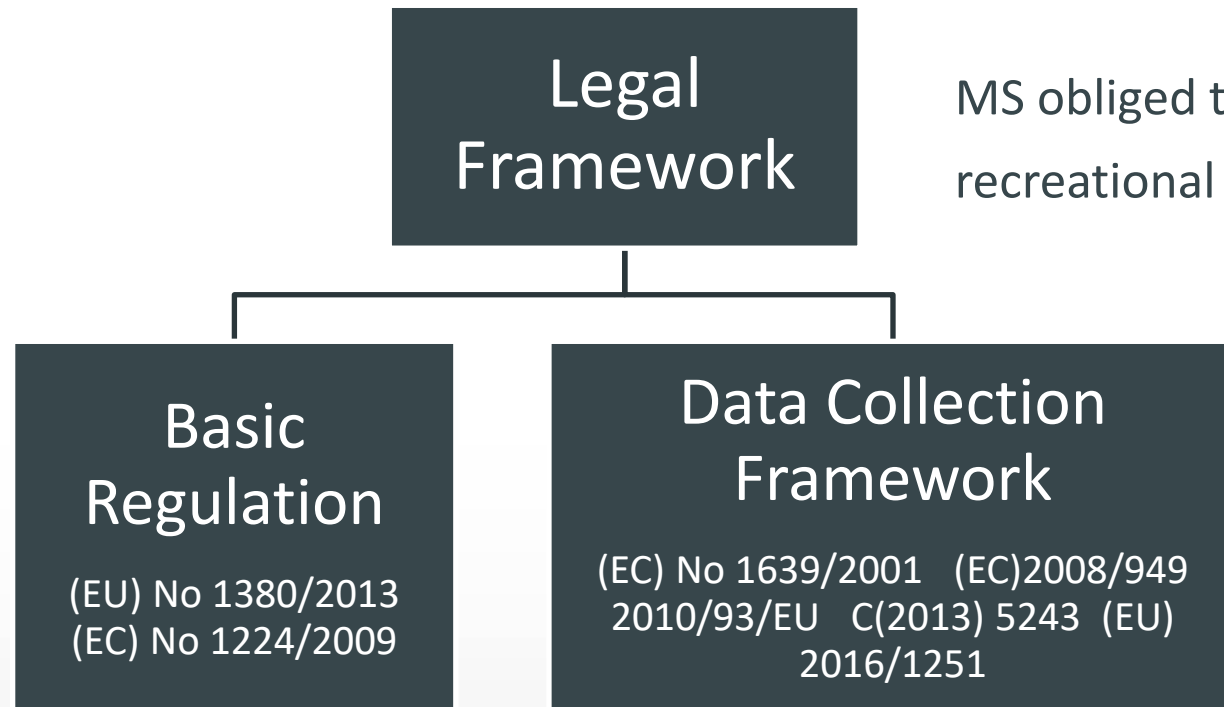


- Large numbers – users of the environment – 8.7 million persons
- High value – 10.5 billion €
- Removals – may impact on achieving management objectives (MSY)
- Management & allocation of resources between sectors

Hyder et al. (2014, 2017, 2018)

What is the current situation?

MS ensure that recreational fishing is conducted in a manner compatible with the objectives of the CFP



MS obliged to collect recreational data



Why is this a problem?

- Allocation to recreational sector is driven by management – Implicit – independent of historic catches
- Economic and social principles not taken into account, see also Belschner et al. 2020 who evaluated the distributional aspects between the commercial-recreational sector negatively
- Allocation decisions made by ICES and not decision makers – in the case of bass where recreational catches are calculated with a splitting factor commercial/recreational (= Fmultiplier)



No relative stability or assessment of impact



Current ad hoc management is leading to a decline in welfare

Further CFP weaknesses

- MSY is not a 'relevant' goal for recreational fisheries
- Recreational fisheries not explicitly acknowledged as sector for development
- No legal framework to base allocation decisions on balancing societal benefits (social & economic principles)
- No competence to act, as *de jure* Member States are responsible for recreational fisheries management (except stock under rebuilding plan)

U.S. Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (2007)

*... fishery resources contribute to the food supply, economy, and health of the Nation and provide **recreational opportunities**.* policy goal

*... recreational fishing **constitutes a major source of employment and contributes significantly to the economy** of the Nation.* sectoral acknowledgement

*"optimum", with respect to the yield from a fishery, means the amount of fish which will provide the greatest overall benefit to the Nation, particularly with respect to **food production and recreational opportunities*** multiple objectives

U.S. Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (2007)

*... ensure a **fair and balanced apportionment** (to Fishery Councils), on a rotating or other basis, of the active participants (or their representatives) in the commercial and recreational fisheries*

empowerment

***allocate**, taking into consideration the economic impact ...any harvest restrictions or recovery benefits **fairly and equitably** among the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors in the fishery*

allocation framework



What else is needed to govern recreational fisheries?

Five steps for policy reform (Arlinghaus et al. 2019):

1. Acknowledge recreational fisheries as multifaceted leisure experience
 - > many catch and non-catch motivations drive anglers
 - > therefore MSY not suitable
2. Involvement of angler organizations in management (co-management)
 - > promotes management and conservation
 - > BUT in many MS angling sector poorly organized (capacity building required)

What else is needed to govern recreational fisheries?

Five steps for policy reform (Arlinghaus et al. 2019):

3. Incorporate angler heterogeneity in management

-> heterogeneity in: angler preferences, stock impacts, fishing opportunities, ecosystems, gears, consumption orientation etc.

4. Illustrate the finite nature of the resource

-> be aware that management regulations are in place in many MS

5. Ensure data collection and monitoring

-> collect social, economic and biological data



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Thanks for your attention!



[ICES Working Group on Recreational Fisheries Surveys](#)



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