

Introduction

- European seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) is a popular species for anglers in Europe.
- Seabass stocks are in decline due to overfishing and poor recruitment and the EU has put several catch restrictions in place. These restrictions however disproportionately affect marine anglers.
- To support a more balanced management of European seabass, more research is required on the socio-economic importance of marine seabass angling. This research was carried out to produce such data for the Netherlands.



Methods

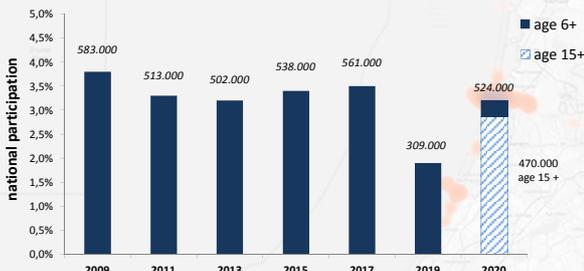
Screening 2020

- October 2020: using a national omnibus survey, nearly 60.000 respondents (age ≥ 6) were asked about angling participation in 2020.
- Results were weighted by gender, age, education, region and family size to calculate angling participation in the Netherlands.
- Questions about the type of fishing, fishing trips, and angling-related expenses were completed by 2.151 fishermen aged 15 and older.

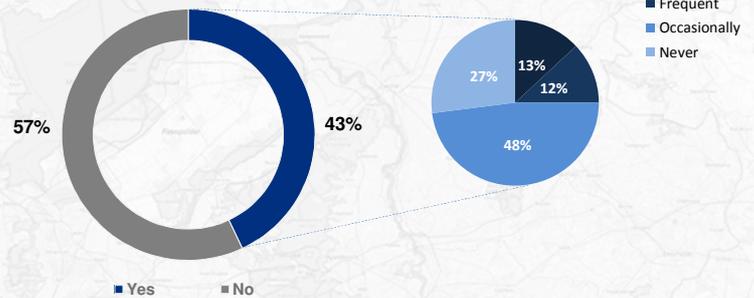
Follow-up 2021: Seabass angling

- In 2021 a follow-up study specifically targeted marine anglers to gain better insight into their economic expenditure in general and their participation and expenditure for seabass fisheries specifically.
- The survey was distributed between November 2021 and the first half of January 2022 through media channels of Sportvisserij Nederland and was set up to align with the 2020 survey.

Results



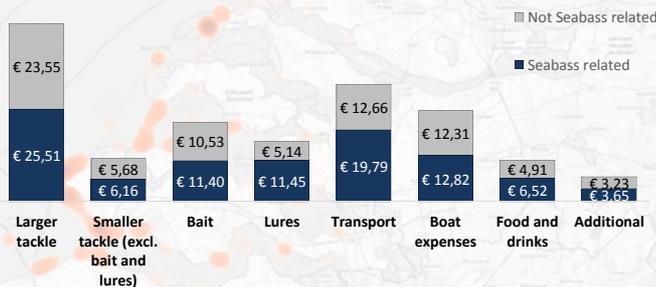
National participation in marine angling (age 6+)



Did you catch seabass last year?
| Kantar 2020: n=375

Anglers targeting seabass
| Kantar 2020: n=160

- National participation in marine angling (age 6+) is relatively stable since 2009.
- 43% caught seabass in 2020, corresponding to 202.000 anglers (age 15+), 50.500 of which target seabass frequent to often



Trip related expenses in marine angling.

Avidity (trips per year)	Estimated number of marine anglers (men age 15+)	Average trip related expenses	Average number of trips	Adjusted number of trips*	Estimated national expenses
1 - 2	162.700	€ 301,54	1,61	1,22	€ 60.030.499
3 - 5	83.000	€ 202,83	4,21	3,20	€ 53.864.914
6 - 10	42.300	€ 179,74	8,53	6,48	€ 49.288.741
11 - 25	21.600	€ 163,30	18,89	14,36	€ 50.639.043
> 25	11.000	€ 148,92	70,14	53,31	€ 87.322.280
Total	319.000	€ 175,52	32,6		€ 301.000.000
				Seabass related:	€ 169.000.000

Extrapolated national expenses in marine angling.

- Trip related expenses were on average €175,31 per trip, €89 of which was attributed to seabass fishing.
- Based on the numbers of marine anglers and trips, Dutch seabass angling expenses amount to 169 million Euro's per year.

Discussion

This study shows that seabass angling in The Netherlands is of significant economic importance.

These results presented here have several known biases.

- **Strong sampling bias** with over-representation of high avidity anglers and very few women. Estimates have been adjusted for avidity and expenses are limited to men age 15+ only.
- Recall bias with exaggerated number of trips and expenses. We were able to correct the former by reducing the number of trips to 76% of the reported trips (column marked * in table). This percentage was derived from a 2021 study by WMR.