

European Parliament Forum on Recreational Fisheries and Aquatic Environment

#### **REPORT**

# EU Fisheries Policies reviewed: Recognizing the socio-economic importance of recreational fisheries

chaired by <u>MEP André Rodrigues</u>

Coordinator of the S&D Group in the PECH Committee

08 April 2025, 18:30 – 20:00 Room ASP 3H1, European Parliament, Brussels

#### Introduction

MEP André Rodrigues (Portugal, S&D) opened the event by thanking all panelists and guests attending the conference. MEP Rodrigues stated that, especially as someone coming from a remote coastal community like the Azores, he is well aware of the socio-economic importance of angling tourism and the fact that this sector can be a valuable asset <u>if managed sustainably</u>. He further underlined that the EU's angling community is a true guardian of our aquatic environment, and the recreational fisheries

sector contributes heavily to local communities and the EU's Blue economy. Additionally, he emphasized that "the knowledge of those engaged in recreational fisheries should be integrated in EU policies which will benefit people and nature".

The event came at the ideal time, MEP Rodrigues underlined, as the ongoing evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), mandated by the previous European Commission, aims to adopt an inclusive approach by considering input from key stakeholders such as the EU recreational fisheries sector. Furthermore, MEP

"The EU's angling community is a true guardian of our aquatic environment, and the recreational fisheries sector contributes heavily to local communities and the EU's Blue economy"

André Rodrigues, MEP, Coordinator of the S&D Group in the PECH Committee

Rodrigues added, the Commission is currently developing the European Oceans Pact, an initiative seeking to enhance Europe's measures against climate change and to refocus its policies on marine ecosystems, oceans and ocean governance. In light of this development, MEP Rodrigues stated that the S&D Group in the European Parliament has asked for a truly holistic Ocean Pact, encompassing the whole spectrum of the EU fisheries sector.

To conclude his statement, MEP Rodrigues underlined that EU Fisheries Policies should truly reflect the contributions of all sectoral stakeholders, including the recreational fisheries sector.





FLTR: **MEP Ms. Isabelle Le Callennec** (France, EPP), **Mark Owen** (European Anglers Alliance - EAA), **MEP Mr. André Rodrigues** (Portugal, S&D)

#### **Presentations**

#### Recognition of Marine Recreational Fisheries as a full stakeholder in the CFP

Presentation<sup>1</sup> by **David Vertegaal**, Sportvisserij Nederland (The Netherlands) & EAA board member.

David Vertegaal briefly presented how the EU's fisheries policy has drastically evolved over the past decade, not only due to changing environmental conditions – with the worsening consequences of climate change and the increased development of offshore wind infrastructure – but also due to shifting policy frameworks, such as the recently adopted Nature Restoration Regulation<sup>2</sup> setting legally-binding targets for EU Member States to restore 20% of land & sea areas by 2030. Additional policy measures that have affected or will affect the EU's recreational fisheries sector include the European Oceans Pact, the EU's Biodiversity strategy, the EU's Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the official withdrawal of the United Kingdom (UK) from the European Union – also known as 'Brexit'.

David Vertegaal further added that – since the 2013 reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) – the recreational fisheries sector has increasingly been regulated at EU level despite lacking any official recognition under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)'s scope. These limitations include bag limits, closed seasons for certain species such as Baltic cod and seabass as well as the mandatory catch registration. This registration has been recently imposed on the sector through Article 55 of the revised control regulation<sup>3</sup>. As of 2026, marine recreational fishers must submit their catch data in an online reporting tool. This catch registration will not include any questions regarding the socio-economic

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Link to the presentation by David Vertegaal

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Regulation - EU - 2024/1991 - EN - EUR-Lex

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Regulation - EU - 2023/2842 - EN - EUR-Lex





impact of the sector, missing thus an important segment of the recreational fisheries sector's impact on our EU coastal communities, ecosystems and the EU Blue economy.

David Vertegaal also added that three advisory councils (ACs) – stakeholder-led organisations officially established by the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) – are already advocating for a level playing field in fisheries policy urging EU institutions to launch the work on further recognition of the recreational fisheries sector in EU policies such as the Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC)<sup>4</sup> and the North Western Waters Advisory Council (NWWAC) together with the North Sea Advisory Council (NSAC)<sup>5</sup>.

"Several EU advisory councils (AC's) as the BSAC, NSAC and the NWWAC – products of the Common Fisheries Policy – advised to include MRF into the EU's Fisheries policy, including the Common Fisheries Policy" David Vertegaal (EAA)

As regards the socio-economic data of the marine recreational fisheries sector, David Vertegaal underlined that the sector is already large and growing rapidly. To support this point, David Vertegaal underlined that the sector – having a low environmental impact with high economic return – supports over 100.000 full-time equivalent jobs and generates an economic impact of €10.5 billion. A local example illustrating this is the 2022 study<sup>6</sup> – conducted in The Netherlands – which estimates the value of seabass angling at €165 million annually. Also, marine recreational fisheries in the country generate an economic impact of around half a billion annually<sup>7</sup>.

To conclude his presentation, David Vertegaal underlined that the time has come for further recognition of the socio-economic value of the recreational fisheries sector at EU level. An updated assessment of the sector's contribution to EU coastal communities would not only benefit the sector but also Europe's policymaking processes as well as the EU's remote coastal communities that depend on the angling experience. The current evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) provides the right timing for this. A credo shared by other sectorial stakeholders, Members of the European Parliament and even some representatives from the European Commission.

## Recognition of Recreational Sea Fishing in the UK: An Angling Community Perspective

Presentation<sup>8</sup> by **Hannah Rudd**, Marine Policy & Research Manager, Angling Trust (UK) & EAA member.

Hannah Rudd started her presentation by underlining that around 800.000 UK adults – representing 1.6% of the country's population – engage in sea angling at least once each year<sup>9</sup>. On average, anglers spend over £1.000 per year on their sport and beloved outdoor hobby. This contributes to a total

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> White Paper - Implementation and revision of the CFP with a Baltic perspective (2022) - BSAC

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> NSAC/NWWAC Advice on recreational fisheries (2023)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://www.eaa-europe.org/files/recreational-seabass-fishing-in-the-netherlands\_final\_600dpi-pdf 13796.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> https://www.eaa-europe.org/topics/socio-economics/netherlands.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Link to the presentation by Hannah Rudd

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> New citizen science data | UK sea angling participation and catches | 2016 - 2021





economic impact of between 1.5 and 2 <u>billion</u> pounds<sup>10</sup>. Moreover, throughout the country, the marine recreational fisheries sector accounts for approximately 15.000 full-time equivalent jobs.

As regards the selectivity of this outdoor activity, Hannah Rudd underlined that approximately 50 million fish are caught annually by sea anglers with a catch-and-release ration of around 80% while also targeting over 100 species<sup>11</sup>. Following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom (UK) from the European Union – also known as 'Brexit' – the UK's fisheries policy has been redefined.

"Following Brexit, the UK's fisheries policy has been drastically redefined with the installation of the Fisheries Act (2020) recognising officially recreational sea fishing as a full stakeholder"

Hannah Rudd (EAA)

Given this, the UK government has enacted the "Fisheries Act" (2020)<sup>12</sup> which recognises sea fishing as a full stakeholder in UK fisheries policy, Hannah Rudd added. The newly adopted Fisheries Act is supported by two important documents: Joint Fisheries Statement<sup>13</sup> and the Fisheries Management Plans<sup>14</sup>.

In <u>'The Joint Fisheries Statement'</u> the UK government underlines that "the fisheries policy authorities will continue to work together...to ensure recreational sea fishing is environmentally, socially and economically sustainable, and therefore contributes to the achievement of the sustainability objective. We will aim, where possible, to take account of recreational sea fishing in wider fisheries management."

With this document, the UK government further specifies – under **article 4.2.16.2** – that it will continue to encourage "data collection on catches, economic impact, and species-specific data across the recreational sea fishing sector, and ensuring recreational interests are part or relevant stakeholder engagement processes."



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Fisheries Act 2020

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) - GOV.UK

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> <u>List of fisheries management plans - GOV.UK</u>



As regards the second important pillar of the UK's 2020 Fisheries Act, Hannah Rudd specified these are the <u>Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs)</u>. On a national level, more than 40 FMPs have been established, in which the recreational fisheries sector is integrated throughout, particularly in plans featuring important species for the recreational fisheries sector.

In the FMPs, an emphasis is placed on social, economic and environmental sustainability, including specific actions for recreational fisheries. Furthermore, the Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) identify social, economic and environmental evidence needs to meet the objectives laid down under the Fisheries Act (2020) and the Joint Fisheries Statement.

To conclude her presentation, Hannah Rudd briefly outlined the government funding the sector is receiving thanks to its formal recognition under the Fisheries Act (2020). This funding is allocated across several areas of activity by the UK angling community such as e.g. Fisheries Industry Science Partnerships – including the 'Angling for sustainability' project – marine conservation projects<sup>15</sup>, water quality and citizen science projects<sup>16</sup>.

### Reactions from the audience

MEP André Rodrigues (Portugal, S&D) stated that it is clear that the EU's angling community plays a crucial role — including culturally — in European history. He thanked both speakers for their presentations, which will certainly contribute to further policy debates impacting aquatic ecosystems. MEP Rodrigues inquired about the structure of the relationship between the EU recreational fisheries sector and the academic community, and whether it is producing positive results. Additionally, he questioned how climate change is currently affecting the recreational fisheries sector and the angling experience.

Hannah Rudd noted that several – UK- and EU funded – research projects exist<sup>17</sup> in which the EU's angling community plays a pivotal role. When anglers participate in research projects, they complement scientific findings, for example through the reporting of their activities, she added. The inclusion of the recreational fisheries sector into science showcases the true value of this outdoor activity. Hannah Rudd underlined that thanks to a catch and release tagging program with recreational fishers, the UK has improved its understanding of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna in its waters and created new fishing opportunities.

Additionally, Hannah Rudd added that indeed, climate change is affecting not only the recreational fisheries sector but also the ecosystems and the species upon which anglers depend. The ocean – she underlined – is at the front line when tackling the consequences of climate change. Negative effects – already widely observed – on the recreational fisheries sector include an increased vulnerability of skippers and charter boat companies as their boats must withstand more impact by worsening

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Sea Campaigns - Angling Trust

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Water Quality Monitoring Network - Rivers - Angling Trust

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Examples of such projects are: <u>Homepage - Protectfish</u>, <u>The Return of the Grayling</u>, <u>Angling for Sustainability</u> and the <u>UK Seafood Fund</u>



weather conditions. In addition, declining fish stocks limit their ability to offer recreational fishing trips to angling tourists, negatively affecting their low-impact business model in remote coastal areas. The migration of certain recreationally significant species, i.e. seabass, towards northern regions is another important driver of climate change. This shift in habitat is mostly in response to increasing ocean temperatures. Conversely, these rising temperatures allow anglers to encounter new species, such as bluefin tuna, which traditionally inhabit more southern areas like the Atlantic and Mediterranean regions.

MEP Isabelle Le Callennec (France, EPP) expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to hear directly from representatives of the EU recreational fisheries sector about their main concerns and positions on the Common Fisheries Policy evaluation, their quest for inclusion under its scope and relevant examples from former EU Member States such as the United Kingdom (UK). She further questioned why the EU's recreational fisheries sector seeks inclusion in the CFP's scope, as this will not only entail opportunities but also obligations and further regulatory burdens.

David Vertegaal (European Anglers Alliance - Sportvisserij Nederland) underlined that if the EU wants to regulate the recreational fisheries sector — under, for example, the revised control regulation and the annual TACs and quota decisions — it must accept the equal representation of the sector under the CFP's scope. He further noted that there are strong examples where the recreational fisheries sector is included in the catch allocation system. These examples — already presented in a previous RecFishing Forum event<sup>18</sup> — originating from Australia, New-Zealand and Canada all support the EAA's argument that when allocating fishing opportunities, the great overall benefit to the country/region must be seen as leitmotif. Also, the net benefit of the opportunities allocated to each sector should be compared. David Vertegaal nevertheless underlined that the introduction of sector-specific goals and dedicated management within the EU fisheries policy marks a positive step forward for the recreational fisheries sector. This will ensure further its sustainable growth, better integration into marine resource planning, and enhanced socio-economic recognition across Member States.

To read the European Anglers Alliance position on the inclusion of Marine Recreational Fisheries in the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) can be found via <a href="this link">this link</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> <u>11 October 2023 - Rethinking the allocation of fisheries catches for fairer and more sustainable decisions - EP RecFishing Forum</u>





#### Roundtable discussion

Chaired by MEP Niclas Herbst (Germany, EPP)

MEP Niclas Herbst (Germany, EPP) thanked both speakers for their interesting presentations. As former Chair of the Forum on Recreational Fisheries and Aquatic environment under the previous mandate, he stated that is well aware of the importance of including the angling sector in the assessment of any EU decision concerning fisheries. However, "in terms of its impact on the socioeconomic sustainability of coastal communities, the recreational fisheries sector is not considered at all at the moment when taking management decisions: no consideration in impact assessments, no data collection" he added. "This is unfair for the thousands of businesses that rely on the possibility of anglers to have fishing rights", MEP Niclas Herbst underlined.

Additionally, MEP Niclas Herbst added that the recreational fisheries sector is an important and sustainable contributor to the development of the EU's Blue economy, especially in remote coastal areas and islands. This outdoor activity also extends the tourism season beyond the summer months while also being deeply rooted in Europe's culture, traditions and heritage.

To conclude his statement, MEP Niclas Herbst reminded participants that the European Parliament had already called for the inclusion of Recreational Fisheries as a full stakeholder of the CFP in its 2018 resolution<sup>19</sup>. With the ongoing evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy by the European Commission, the event served as the ideal moment to remind the European Commission about this Parliament's call. Furthermore, MEP Niclas Herbst proposed to fellow MEPs additional parliamentary scrutiny actions, i.e. an open letter to the Commission, to remind them of the Parliament's earlier adopted position.

"In terms of its impact on the socio-economic sustainability of coastal communities, the recreational fisheries sector is not considered at all at the moment when taking management decisions...this is unfair for the thousands of businesses that rely on the possibility of anglers to have fishing rights"

Niclas Herbst, MEP

Glenn Douglas – Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC) and representative of Swedish EAA member Sportfiskarna briefly outlined the BSAC White Paper (2022): "Implementation and revision of the CFP with a Baltic perspective" This document is the result of the reflections by BSAC members on a future outlook of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and its current implementation. This document acknowledges the socio-economic and environmental value of the recreational fisheries sector, while urging at the same time for further recognition at EU level. Glenn Douglas underlined this, noting that, especially in the Baltic sea region, both commercial and recreational fisheries sectors are seeing more and more common interests as they fish the same resource.

"The BSAC agress that the management of recreational fisheries should be compatible with the objectives of the CFP and that recreational fishing should, as an important part of the catching sector, be part of the CFP." - BSAC White Paper (2022)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> European Parliament resolution of 12 June 2018 on the state of play of recreational fisheries in the European Union

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Link to the BSAC 2022 White Paper



Additionally, the BSAC White Paper underlines the importance of clearly defining – within the CFP – the different recreational fishing sectors e.g., charter boats, marine recreational angling, marine recreational net-fishers (nets, pots, traps, etc.) and other users. This will give fisheries managers, and EU Member States the ability to address control and regulation appropriately for each sector within marine recreational fishing.

To conclude his statement, Glenn Douglas specified that the Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC) position paper underlines that the recreational fisheries sector should — as a consequence of its further recognition under the CFP's scope — also benefit from the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF). This is justified by the fact that members of angling organizations voluntarily support the recovery of fish stocks, engage in nature conservation and restoration activities and related subjects.

"The BSAC takes note that the recreational fishermen are also affected by measures such as fishery closures. Members of angler organisations voluntarily support the recovery of several fish stocks including cod, salmon and eel in the Baltic. Therefore, in the view of the BSAC, recreational fishermen should also benefit from the EMFAF, for example in terms of reporting, environmental restoration, research and data gathering". - BSAC White Paper (2022)



FLTR: **Hannah Rudd** (Angling Trust – EAA), **David Vertegaal** (Sportvisserij Nederland – EAA), **Glenn Douglas** (Baltic Sea Advisory Council & Sportfiskarna)

Stylianos Mitolidis, European Commission, Director DG MARE Unit D – Fisheries Policy, Mediterranean and Black Sea underlined that the European Commission acknowledged the importance of recreational fisheries in the prosperity of coastal communities across Europe. Mr. Mitolidis stated that recreational fisheries play an important role in the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). This activity is already covered by several pieces of EU legislation such as the EU's annual Fishing opportunities Regulation, the Fisheries Control Regulation and the Data Collection Framework Regulation. There are also a number of measures set by the Regional fisheries management



organisations (RFMOs)<sup>21</sup> that are applicable to EU Member States. For example, certain provisions for fishing in the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) Agreement area<sup>22</sup> and measures applicable in the Convention area of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) establishing management, conservation and control measures for bluefin tuna and swordfish in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean<sup>23</sup>. Finally, EU environmental legislation includes also provisions applicable to recreational fisheries.

As regards the allocation of TACs and quotas, Mr. Mitolidis indicated that the EU Member States should ensure decisions are taken in line with the objectives set out in the CFP Regulation. He also emphasised that a key principle of the CFP is its science-based approach, whereby decisions should be based on the best available scientific advice, which in turn requires reliable, accurate and up-to-date data. This is supported by the Data Collection Framework, which requires EU Member States to collect scientific data to enable the assessment of the state of fish stocks and the level and impact of fishing. Regarding the ongoing evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) Regulation. Mr Mitolidis clarified that the evaluation focus on the impact of the CFP Regulation on the conservation of marine biological resources and the management of fisheries. He underlined the importance of stakeholders submitting their opinions, positions and other relevant comments to the open public consultation<sup>24</sup>, which closes on 21 April 2025<sup>25</sup>.

Mr Mitolidis encouraged the audience to provide their input before this deadline to ensure that the Commission is fully informed of the main concerns and priorities of sectoral stakeholders in relation to the evaluation of the CFP Regulation.

As regards the Fisheries Control Regulation, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2023/2842<sup>26</sup>, Mr. Mitolidis explained that it introduces catch registration requirements for marine recreational fisheries. These will apply to certain species or stocks and must be implemented via an electronic form or application by January 2026 at the latest. He noted that 11 EU Member States have requested the Commission to develop and use the EU electronic system (RecFishing) for collecting recreational fisheries catch data. Mr Mitolidis also clarified that, although the revised Control Regulation does not require the collection of socio-economic data, Member States may collect such data through the Data Collection Framework (DCF).

The collection of new data on recreational fisheries catches is expected to contribute to improve scientific knowledge in this area, not only enhancing the understanding and management of the recreational sector itself, but also supporting broader fisheries policy and stock assessment efforts at EU level.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) - European Commission

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A52024PC0183

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Regulation - EU - 2024/987 - EN - EUR-Lex

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Link to the input of EAA and EFTTA to the call for evidence (20 June 2024 - 06 September 2024)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Common fisheries policy – evaluation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Regulation - EU - 2023/2842 - EN - EUR-Lex



To conclude his statement, Mr. Mitolidis reiterated that now is the time to make stakeholders' views stated through the public consultation on the evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation.

#### **Concluding remarks**

Mark Owen (Chair – European Anglers Alliance) expressed his gratitude to all participating Members of the European Parliament and other attendees for their participation in the discussion.

To conclude the event, he wished to share an important statement illustrating how important angling can be on an individual level.

"After a close friend died suddenly last year from Covid-19 I started getting anxiety attacks. The doctor said to get out into nature and try meditation. It's hard to explain but fishing feels like I do both at the same time and it really helps." – **Get Fishing For Wellbeing testimonial** 

With this statement from a 60+ UK-based angler participating in the "Get Fishing For Wellbeing" project, Mark Owen wanted to highlight that the recreational fisheries sector is not solely about policy documents and obligations, emphasising that angling is also an excellent outdoor activity for enhancing mental health and wellbeing, while encouraging people to enjoy our natural – aquatic – environment. Additionally, angling can be prescribed by doctors as a means of combatting mental health issues such as PTSD.

Furthermore, Mark Owen underlined that the recreational fisheries sector must play a significant role in current and future EU policies such as the Oceans Pact and mostly the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) which is currently undergoing evaluation by the European Commission. Enthusiastic anglers spend significant amounts of money on their beloved hobby, buying equipment, licences, magazines, and other related items, he added. However, "It is well known that the 2017 report by the PECH Committee underlined that marine recreational fisheries generates over 10 billion euros annually while also sustaining over 100.000 full-time equivalent jobs throughout the European Union. These figures, already date back from 8 years ago and the sector has not received any further update. And this is due to the non-inclusion in the EU's Fisheries Policy." Mark Owen specified.

For a future-proof, sustainable, and fair fisheries policy, the EU should consider the recreational sector as a full stakeholder in its policies.

In conclusion, Mark Owen urged the present representatives from both the European Commission and European Parliament to update the 2017 report by the PECH Committee – within the currently ongoing 10<sup>th</sup> mandate. Given the substantial increase in inflation and the significant rise in popularity of angling over the past eight years, the 2017 report cannot be considered representative of the current recreational fisheries sector.

"The 2017 report by the PECH
Committee on the value of Marine
Recreational Fisheries cannot be
considered representative of the
current recreational fisheries
sector due to the significant rise in
popularity of angling since then
and the substantial increase in
inflation. An updated assessment
is therefore urgently required"
Mark Owen, EAA



Therefore, an updated assessment is urgently required to reflect the sector's true value within the EU's Blue Economy. Such an assessment, which has been missing due to the lack of recognition under the CFP's scope, would provide policymakers with accurate and comprehensive data, allowing for well-informed policy decisions encompassing the entirety of Europe's fisheries sector.

MEP Isabelle Le Callennec (France, EPP) expressed her appreciation for Mark's statement, particularly emphasizing the focus on mental health benefits of angling. She noted that social inclusion, mental resilience, and encouraging citizens to engage with the outdoors are critical issues that society and its policymakers must address. Furthermore, based on her experiences with a local angling club in her constituency, she stressed the need to promote these societal benefits more robustly, particularly to help Europe's youth in becoming more independent and self-confident.

MEP Niclas Herbst (Germany, EPP) added that the timing of this event is indeed very appropriate, given the ongoing CFP evaluation and the development of new EU paradigm for our Oceans under the forthcoming European Oceans Pact. He further underlined that the recreational fisheries sector has good arguments on their side and that a further recognition at EU level can be accomplished during this mandate. This either via the CFP evaluation and/or other policy measures such as the Ocean Pact. He urged – in line with Mr. Mitolidis' statements - the recreational fisheries sector representatives to submit their input on the CFP evaluation via the public consultation.



FLTR: **MEP Ms. Cynthia Ní Mhurchú** (Ireland, Renew Europe), **Mr. Stylianos Mitolidis** (European Commission – DG MARE), **MEP Ms. Isabelle Le Callennec** (France, EPP), **Mark Owen** (European Anglers Alliance – EAA)