

Better data for better policy making and better fisheries management: the case for a time series of environmental, social and economic data collection

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- for EFTTA and the European Anglers Alliance (EAA)***



Public hearing: “DATA COLLECTION AND RECREATIONAL FISHERIES”
European Parliament, the Committee on Fisheries, 30 November 2021



Content - issues:

- **Recreational fishing – definitions**
- **Data needs commercial- and recreational fisheries**
- **Number of recreational fishers and the socio-economic value**
- **A plea for a pan-European study – concept model and funding**
- **A plea for a fully and fair inclusion of recreational fisheries in the CFP**

Recreational fishing - definitions

- **Recreational Fishing: no sale of catch** (EU Control Regulation's Article 55)
- **ICES definition of recreational fishing:**
 - *The capture or attempted capture of living aquatic resources mainly for leisure and/or personal consumption. This covers active fishing methods including line, spear, and hand-gathering and passive fishing methods including nets, traps, pots, and set-lines.*
- **Important to provide data on all recreational fishing methods.**
- **EFTTA & EAA represent the recreational anglers, that catch their fish with rod & line. This is by far the biggest recreational fishing segment.**

Robust data from and about commercial- and recreational fisheries needed, to tell:

- **what species, fisheries and pressures there are out there..**
- **..where, when, how much**
- **the impacts of various kinds of fishing**
- **the efficiency of management measures**
- **what management measures to apply to the best effect with the least negative impact on recreational fishing and its dependant businesses**

More and better recreational fisheries data

- **Both catch as well as socio-economic data needed** - for managers, policy-makers, legislators to be able to make (better) informed decisions
- **To make it possible to evaluate the impact of management measures** (bag limits, seasonal closures, gear restrictions...)
- **To provide useful information to local communities and businesses**
- **To be able to treat the recreational fishing sector fairly and equitably**
- **To prevent or dismantle myths about recreational fishing**

Number of Participants and Value

Figures from study on marine recreational fishing in Europe (2017)*

- **9 million Europeans**, or 1.6% of population 563 mill (EU 27 = 448 mill.)
- **Total economic impact: 10.5 billion EUR**
- **Supporting almost 100,000 jobs**
(figures are ex. tourist fishing, which is significant in some countries)
- **Also: >10 mill. freshwater recreational fishers** (EFTTA-EAA estimate)

* “Research for PECH Committee - Marine recreational and semi-subsistence fishing - its value and its impact on fish stocks, European Parliament, Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies, Brussels”; Hyder, K, Radford, Z, Prellezo, R, Weltersbach, MS, Lewin, WC, Zarauz, L, Ferter, K, Ruiz, J, Townhill, B, Mugerza, E, & Strehlow, HV, (2017)



National studies are scarce

- **Some countries do occasionally their own recreational fisheries studies**
- **We need all countries to do it and in a coordinated manner**
- **making use of terms and terminology, which make figures from national studies comparable and fitted for a pan-European study**
- **For 20 years EFTTA and EAA have called for a pan-European study to be conducted every 5 year – as it happens in the USA**
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Concept model for a pan-European study

Elements from this model

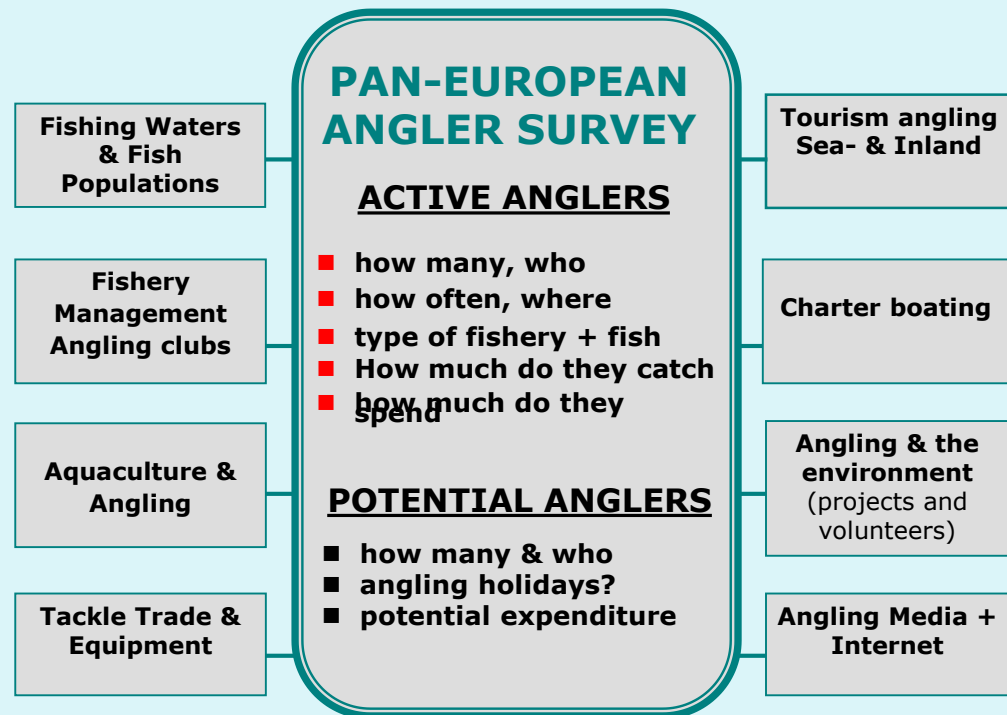
can be selected to form the backbone for a genuine pan-European study.

Not as expensive as some would believe:

Total cost every five year: xx

- xx divided by 5
- shared by 27 or more countries of which some would spend money on this anyway

And/or EU funding e.g. EMFAF



EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)

- **Only one mention of recreational fisheries in the CFP:**
 - *“Recreational fisheries can have a significant impact on fish resources and Member States should, therefore, ensure that they are conducted in a manner that is compatible with the objectives of the CFP.”*
- **However, a number of other EU legal acts concern recreational fisheries**
 - e.g. the data collection regulation, regional multi-annual management plans, the fisheries control regulation, management measures for recreational fishing of sea bass, tuna, swordfish, eels, Baltic cod, Baltic salmon...
- **The data collection regulation's definition of the ‘fisheries sector’ includes recreational fisheries. Article 3:**
 - *‘fisheries sector’ means activities related to commercial fisheries, **recreational fisheries**, aquaculture and industries processing fisheries products,*

CFP inclusion now, please!

- **For more than 20 years** EFTTA and EAA have pushed for recreational fisheries to be included the CFP, in its own right and on an equal footing with commercial fisheries and aquaculture.

Make it happen now, please!

- **Today, the recreational angling sector suffers** from being managed under a scheme developed solely for management of commercial fisheries.

One big problem: growth of the recreational sector is subordinated the commercial fishing sector's needs and interests. This makes it impossible for society to achieve 'best' or 'optimal' use of the fish resource.

Anglers can and do help providing some data – citizen science -

- **EAA and EFTTA pushed successfully** for funding to the development of a bass reporting app to recreational anglers – to improve bass management
- **Angling volunteers help with fish tagging projects**, e.g. Bluefin tuna, bass and salmon, which wouldn't be done without the volunteers (too costly).
- **New angling apps are entering the market all the time**
 - Some apps can be used as tools in fisheries management (catch reporting)
 - others can provide data useful for monitoring of the aquatic environment and fish stocks – if a sufficient number of anglers provide input regularly

Data, data, data...

***“The more data we get, the more we process it,
the better we prescribe the pill.”***



*Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for
Environment, Oceans and Fisheries*

tinyurl.com/j39x5wp8

Recreational fishing shows a huge diversity by engaging all kinds of people, all ages and income groups, and involves many types of fishing techniques, in various aquatic environments targeting a variety of fish species.



The Tackle Trade - Europe

- 2,900 fishing tackle specialized companies
 - several thousands of specialized tackle dealers and sport shops
 - Annual turnover: ca. 2 billion EUR
 - Serves Europe's 25 million sea- and freshwater anglers
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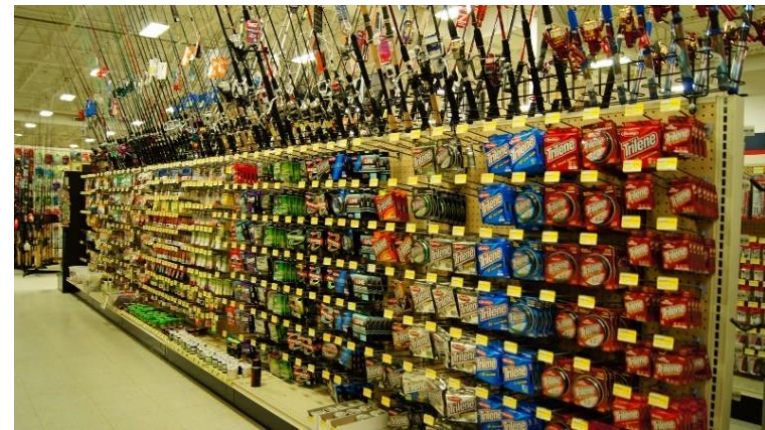


The European Fishing Tackle Trade Association (EFTTA)

EFTTA is a Trade Association for Manufacturers and Wholesalers of sportfishing equipment.

Website: www.eftta.com

EFTTA & EAA share an office in Brussels:
Rue de la Loi 81a, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium





The European Anglers Alliance (EAA)

- Ca. 25 mill Europeans go fishing recreationally with a rod and line ('angling')
- 6-7 mill are member of an angling club/organisation
- EAA represents ca. 3 mill via the membership and affiliates of 17 national organisations

Website: www.eaa-europe.org

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