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European Anglers Alliance (EAA), and
European Fishing Tackle Trade Association (EFTTA)**

Meeting: ICES WGRFS

IMEDEA institute:, Mallorca

7-11 May 2012



Stakeholder involvement concerning data collection: – sea fisheries (DCF and Control Regulation, Art 55)

In Europe: 25+ million anglers. 8-10 million sea anglers. National and local angling clubs in all states.

How can anglers and their organisations be at help?

- **Organisations:** Some orgs have the capacity to do own surveys (German angling orgs VDSF and DAV did a survey on German anglers' catches of Baltic cod 2006 and 2007). All can help scientists in an advisory role in the preparation phase; be part of steering group; communicate with anglers.
- **Individual anglers (volunteers):** Fish tagging; respond to/fill in questionnaires.

When do they or don't want to help?

- **National differences** – willingness to help collect catch data seems lower in countries without a sea license scheme in place (e.g. UK).
- **Two opposite positions among anglers (in all countries to varying degree):**
 - 1) - The less “they” know the better – nothing (bad) will happen
 - 2) - Data is a necessity for RSA recognition and influence (and it is not possible to “hide” any longer due to DCF, Art 55 and more. Bad things most likely will happen if no data is collected).

Catch data:

- **Trust is the big issue: What will happen after data is collected?**
(Most sampling results with regard to recreational sea fisheries are “easy” to criticize re validity and bias. This kind of critic is, of course, more likely and more severe if the result is suspected to trigger restrictive management measures).

Tagging data:

- **migration patterns, stock abundance, age spread etc.:**
Less controversial. Anglers are willing to help in general (but would be happy to receive some kind of “appreciation” for the effort).

Trust

If new data show that anglers catch “surprisingly” many cod, is this a good or a bad thing? It all depends of course.

However, when unknown fishing mortality becomes known, and the stock is not in trouble, logically this can only be a good thing showing that “stock productivity is (much) higher than previously thought”. Is that what we hear?
Example: German recreational cod catches in the German area of the Baltic Sea

- Fear for the future: sea bass. 3-4 decades ago sea bass was not of commercial fishing interest. Far the most sea bass were caught by anglers. This is not so anymore. Base-line problem.

To increase trust:

- Socio-economic data should accompany catch data.
- Catch should not be the main parameter, mortality should (in this regard: it is good that commercial discard has to be counted in the future).
- The EAA and EFTTA’s latest CFP input suggests to not count recreational catches/mortality against the quota but to take them into account via the stock assessment (before the annual TAC is set).

A few words about definitions

EAA and EFTTA wish to see “sharper” definitions and terminology developed/adopted, and a more coherent use of terminology across the borders and languages. (** see EAA and EIFAC definitions copied in further below in this presentation*).

Recreational angling has rarely any interest in but suffers from being mixed up with other recreational fishing practises and artisanal, subsistence and semi-commercial fishing.

The WGRFS obviously operates with the distinction “angling” and “passive gear” for “non-angling”. Hopefully, this distinction will be requested for all data collection on recreational fisheries.

- By the way: The term “amateur fisher” doesn’t fit well with our work or thinking about terminology for the future.

CFP reform 2012

Conference on the Reform of the CFP, La Coruna, 2-3 May 2010

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/news_and_events/events/020510/index_en.htm

- Over 230 people - Member State administrations, RAC's and ACFA, industry, NGO's, members of the European Parliament or representatives of the main EU institutions.

Summary of debate, p. 7:

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/news_and_events/events/020510/summary_en.pdf

Fisheries management

Scope

Extension to recreational fisheries and diadromous species was not objected as an objective, but questioned as additional administrative burden and requesting collection of data and analysis before acting.

EAA's Definition on Recreational Angling - 2004

- **RECREATIONAL FISHING**
- Recreational fishing is fishing, which is not deemed to be commercial fishing
- **ANGLING**
- Def. a: Angling is line fishing using the hooking method.
- Def. b: Angling is the activity of catching or attempting to catch fish, principally by rod and line, pole or hand-held line
- **RECREATIONAL ANGLING**
- Recreational angling is the activity of catching or attempting to catch fish, principally by rod and line, pole or hand-held line for non-commercial purposes; recreational anglers do not sell the fish they catch.

EAA's Definition on Recreational Angling - 2004

Some comments:

- “The hooking method.”
- Def. b: Angling is the activity of catching or attempting to catch fish, principally by rod and line, pole or hand-held line

- The definition doesn't say “hook” but “hooking method”
Is this silk-for-hook substitute within the definition for angling?
I would say yes.



- How many hooks on a line before it is “too much” for an angling definition (and should be called something else e.g. longlining)? The definition doesn't decide on that but one or “few” hooks would be within the definition for angling.

- We may revise (“sharpen”) the EAA definition. E.g. “trolling” is suggested to be mentioned explicitly as included the def. of angling.

EAA's Definition on Recreational Angling - 2004

- Principally by rod and line, pole or hand-line
- Non-commercial
 - anglers do not sell their catch, but return or eat it (within the family unit)
- Recreational angling is part of the broader defined activity 'Recreational Fisheries'
 - but far the biggest in value and practitioners (in the Western World)

'Recreational Fishing'

Recreational Angling/Sportfishing

Other Recreational Fishing
(i.e. Nets, traps, spears, long lines)

Commercial Fishing

EAA Definition Recreational Angling - 2004

Non-commercial

- Anglers do not sell their catch, but return or eat it (within the family unit)
- EIFAC Code Art 8: "8.4 only keep fish or other aquatic organisms that will be eaten within the family or within the network of relatives and friends;"**

'Recreational Fishing'

Recreational Angling/Sportfishing

Other Recreational Fishing
(i.e. Nets, traps, spears, long lines)

Commercial Fishing

EIFAC Code – subsistence fisheries

“Fishing for aquatic animals that contribute substantially to meeting an individual’s nutritional needs. In pure subsistence fisheries, fishing products are not traded on formal domestic or export markets but are consumed personally or within a close network of family and friends. Pure subsistence fisheries sustain a basic level of livelihood and constitute a culturally significant food-producing and distributing activity.”

Recreational fishing: “...fishing of aquatic animals that do not constitute the individual’s primary resource to meet nutritional needs and are not generally sold or otherwise traded on export, domestic or black markets. The unambiguous demarcation between pure recreational fisheries and pure subsistence fisheries is often difficult....”

'Recreational Fishing'

Subsistence fishing

Commercial fishing

Recreational Angling/Sportfishing

Other Recreational Fishing
(i.e. Nets, traps, spears, long lines)

Commercial Fishing

GFCM WG – conclusions 22 Oct 2010

GFCM Report No.81 on “Recreational Fisheries in the Mediterranean Countries: A review of existing legal frameworks”, published in 2007.

Recreational fishing was classified as:

- 1. Amateur fishing**
- 2. Sport fishing**
- 3. Tourism fishing**

Report of the 10th Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Economic and Social Sciences (SCESS). Recreational fishing was defined as:

“Non commercial fishing activities exploiting marine living aquatic resources. It is prohibited to sell or trade the catches obtained.”

and the classification of recreational fishing evolved into four “independent” segments, at the Mediterranean level:

1. Leisure
2. Sport
3. Underwater
4. Charter fisheries

GFCM WG – conclusions 22 Oct 2010

In addition, it was agreed that the following definitions of charter fishing and underwater fishing are added to the GFCM Glossary:

- **Charter fishing:** Recreational fishing practiced from a rented boat, with a captain or fishing guide on board, for leisure or sport purposes.
- **Underwater fishing** Fishing activity practiced as a sport or for leisure by snorkeling techniques without the help of mechanical devices (e.g. scooter).
- ***NB! The GFCM work on recreational fishing definitions is not finally concluded but on-going and open for input. For more details:
Ms Camille Samier camille.samier@fao.org***

Links to some EAA and EFTTA releases

- **16 May 2009 – “EAA Meets with Fisheries Commissioner Joe Borg” (Control Regulation)**
www.eaa-europe.eu/fileadmin/templates/uploads/News_2009/EAA_release_Final_16_May_2009.pdf
- **„Secret“ EU Fisheries Committee will make Recreational Angling suffer (Control Regulation)**
EN: www.eaa-europe.eu/fileadmin/templates/uploads/news/Commission_Regulation_Control_ver_EN_final_revised_7_March.pdf
FR: www.eaa-europe.eu/fileadmin/templates/uploads/news/Commission_Regulation_Control_ver_FR_final_revised_7_March.pdf
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