

# How to contribute to the success of MPAs: the role of recreational fishermen



**Objective 30%: why involving recreational anglers is key for the success of Marine Protected Areas**

**The stake of recreational anglers by Olivier Portrat (CEO of EFTTA)**



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Meagre (*Argyrosomus regius*)

- Childhood Memories



# How to contribute to the success of MPAs: the role of recreational fishermen

- **Protecting 30% of the European seas is a fantastic project**
- **Acceptance of local population is key to success**
- **Angling Tourism is precious for many rural areas of Europe**
- **Recreational Angling does not have to be extractive!**
- **Recreational Angling is not destructive!**
- **Anglers do not need to kill fish to enjoy their nature experience**
- **Anglers are happy to accept bag-limits, size-limits & closed fishing seasons**



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## 10% strict protection: why involving recreational anglers is key for the success of Marine Protected Areas

The role of recreational anglers by David Vertegaal  
(Public Affairs Marine at EAA)



# How to contribute to the success of MPAs: the role of recreational fishermen

- **Anglers have a big stake in MPA management**
- **As EU citizens with a special interest, we all share the worries about the state of our oceans**
- **How do anglers see the current discourse on 'strict protection' ?**



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- **Anglers support strict protection, and ....**
- **We want access to such reserves as long as our activity does not interfere with the conservation goals**
- **We expect a balanced approach when weighing current use and area specific protection measures**
- **Managing beyond banning**



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PECH committee opinion

on the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Bringing nature back into our lives (2020/2273(INI))

Rapporteur: Gabriel Mato

33.

Recalls the need to consider all other blue economy activities in spatial planning, in particular recreational and leisure activities; stresses the need to avoid banning entire sectors from marine protected areas; in the case of fishing, calls on the Commission to distinguish between different types of fishing gear and to take into account fishing effort and specific impacts, to determine which activity should, or should not, be restricted; underlines that some fishing activities, such as small-scale or recreational fisheries, can be very selective and even non-extractive;

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/PECH-AD-657275\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/PECH-AD-657275_EN.pdf)



# How to contribute to the success of MPAs: the role of recreational fishermen

**Angling is currently defined as being extractive**

- in the same category as mining and dredging ...

**Renewable low impact fisheries should not be seen as extractive**

- be it commercial or recreational
- harvest only the 'ecosystem interest'

⇒ **ecology optimized management (≠ MSY)**

**We would propose 'exploitation' (CFP) or 'use' (Convention on Biodiversity) over 'extraction'**





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- **The Biodiversity agenda should set the stage for effective and customized protection**
- **With possible local measures like bag limits, size limits, catch & release and zoning in time & place many if not all conservation goals would be attainable**
- **Is The Netherlands managing beyond banning ?**



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## Control and monitoring

- ⇒ **strict protection and high conservation goals**
- ⇒ **the high ecological value we seek often comes with high monetary value**
- ⇒ **how to dissuade the temptation of illegal acts ?**
- ⇒ **require effective control**
- ⇒ **big control budgets are not popular with those tasked with it**
- ⇒ **the anglers potential**
  - ⇒ **eyes and ears**
    - ⇒ **social control against illegal activities**
    - ⇒ **to report on environmental incidents – remember acid rain ?**
  - ⇒ **partners in research and data collection**
    - ⇒ **catching & tagging**
    - ⇒ **catch logs**



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**Ban the anglers ?**

**Waste the benefits !**

**Use it or lose it....**

