

# State of play of recreational fisheries in the EU

## An anglers perspective

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# Marine recreational fisheries – what is it ?

'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.' (ICES)

- 8,7 million people fishing at sea recreationally
- 100.000 jobs (FTE) and 10,5 billion revenue for Europe
- if MRF were one company it would be one of Europe's top 10 companies

# 1. MRF impact – data collection

- Data collection on the MRF sector is lacking
- Mandatory for member states since 2002
- MRF impacts vary with stock from limited to significant
- Managing in the dark - the sea bass case



## 2. Semi-subsistence fisheries (SSF)

- Hardly registered catches
- Sales of fish
  - Illegal and legal practices
  - Exemptions exemptions
  - Significant impact: 3 times official sea bass landings (UK)
- SSF is currently not being managed
  - CFP free riders
  - SSF management: part of the MRF management effort
  - Sales = commercial activity



# Conclusions MEP Nicolai

- MRF must become fully integrated in the CFP
- SSF must be transparently managed as either commercial (sales) or recreational activity



# CFP and MRF



# CFP goals at a glance

- CFP goals
  - Manage fish stocks (common resource )
  - Manage European fisheries
  - Manage sustainably
- Sustainably, how ?
  - socially, economically and environmentally
  - maximize catches
  - reduce bycatch and discards



# CFP and sustainable use – on track ?

- Maximum sustainable yield by 2020 (MSY)
- Stock recovery mostly on schedule
  - For the big commercial, intensively managed stocks
  - Not so for none-to-less commercial stocks
- Such 'secondary stocks' suffer from
  - Low management priority
  - Bycatch, discards
- For CFP reform, MSY reinterpretation is needed
  - Reaffirmation of the current CFP philosophy
  - 'Yield' =  $\sum$  (economy, social & environment)





# MRF in the CFP

- Earlier proposals blocked by the Council in 2013
- Will MRF in the CFP frustrate commercial stakes ?

## Large scale fleet

- Not so much (commercial stocks)
- Landing obligation will improve bycatch  
– with or without MRF in the CFP

## Small scale fleet

- 'close contact' with MRF - we share stocks e.g. sea bass, mullet
- To increase sustainability of these stocks, we need to work together
- A thriving MRF sector will give a boost to coastal communities
- And do so within the framework of the CFP !



# Conclusions – MRF in the CFP or .... ?

- MRF and the commercial sector need to work together to achieve the best outcome for all concerned
- MRF is an important stakeholder
- Fish stocks are a public resource
  - MRF represents 9 million European stakeholders
- So we need to do all this from within the CFP framework, together



**A member state without voting rights...  
.... is like the CFP without MRF.**

**So let's include MRF in the CFP !!**

**Thank you for your participation**