

Recreational sea fishing in Europe – participation rates, fishing effort and expenditure in a global context



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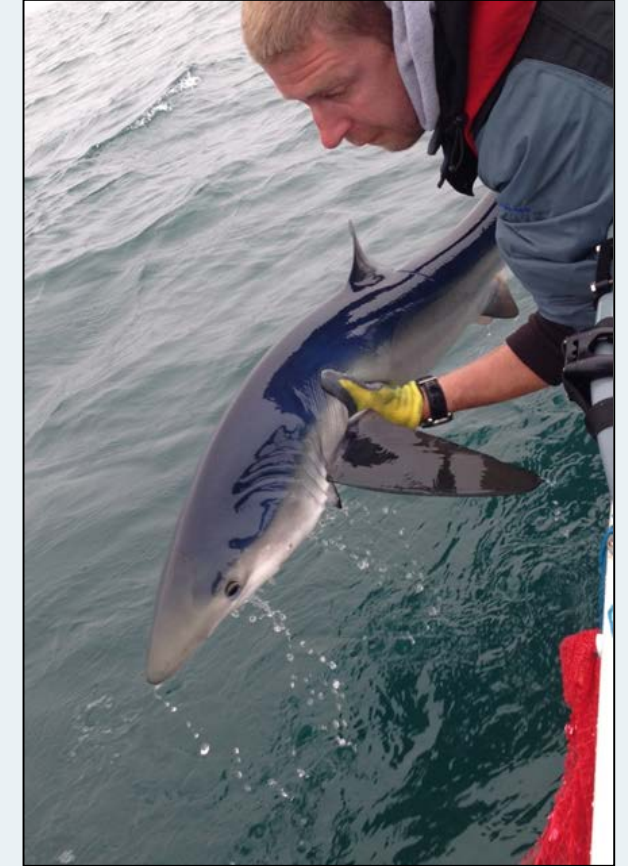
Outline

- Importance of recreational sea fishing (RSF) & management challenges
- European RSF - current state & estimates of participation, activity & spend in global context
- European RSF management & the opportunity for a new paradigm
- Unlocking the potential of European RSF



Why is RSF important?

- High value – spend billions €
- Large numbers – users of marine environment
- Catches – achieving sustainable management objectives (Maximum Sustainable Yield)
- Management & allocation between sectors



*Value & impact recognised in some countries (e.g. USA),
leading to surveys, management & development*

The management challenge



More & bigger fish, &
sustainable (MTS)

VS



Sustainable catch
(MSY)

*Objectives not always compatible, so may require trade-offs
Design & evaluation of management must be evidence based*

European RSF - current situation



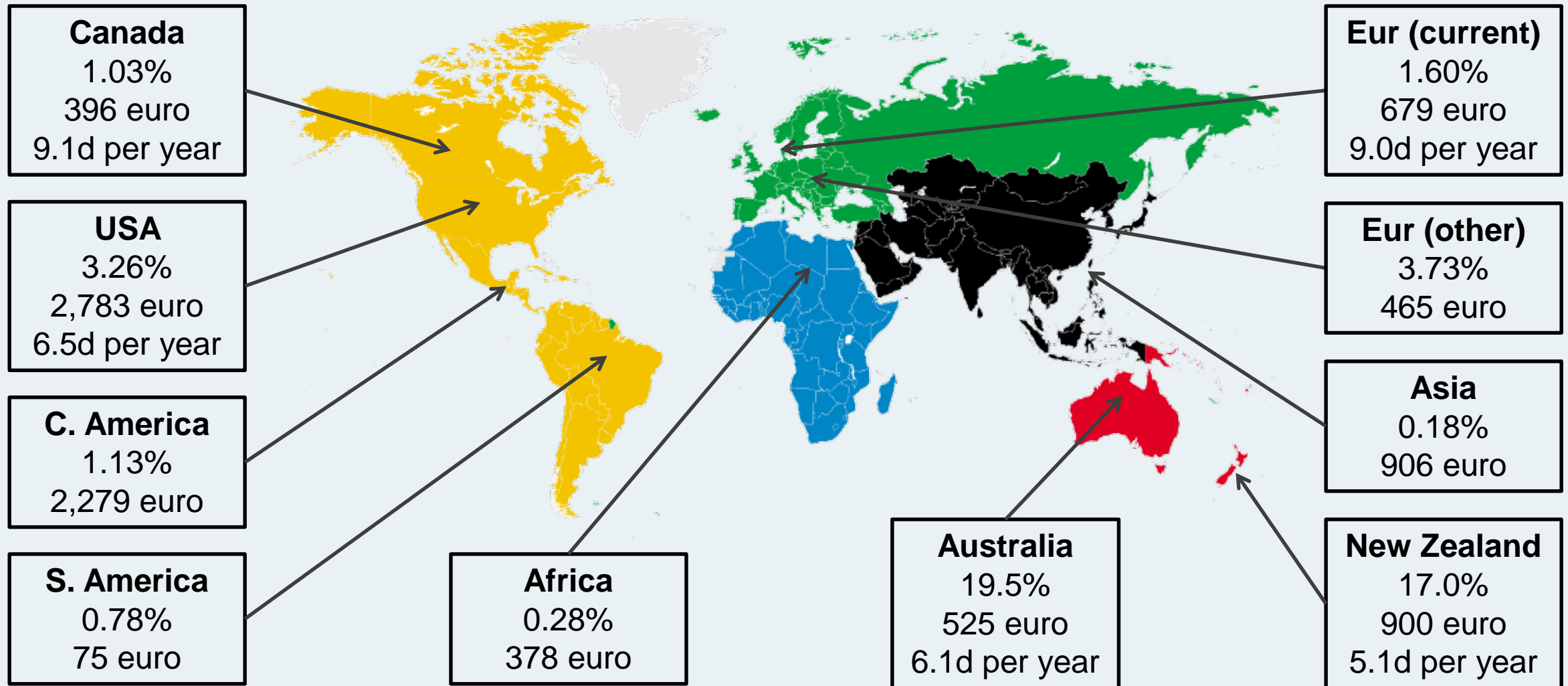
- Legal definition ‘any non-commercial fishing’
- Recreational often excluded from assessment, so may impact on sustainability
- Data lacking on:
 - Who – no lists as often no licence required
 - Catch – mandatory data collection since 2002 (EC 2016/1251), but difficult so often ignored
 - Spend – economic assessment not mandatory
- Limited management (sea bass, Baltic cod)
- No robust European estimates until now

RSF numbers, activity & spend in Europe

Category	Total	Atlantic	Med
Numbers (millions)	8.67 (---)	5.90 (--)	2.77 (----)
Participation (%)	1.60	1.70	1.41
Expenditure (billion €)	5.89 (+/-)	4.97 (+/-)	0.92 (---)
Spend per angler (€)	679	842	342
Activity (million days)	77.6 (--)	56.8 (-)	20.9 (---)
Days per angler	9.04	9.62	7.76



European RSF in the global context



EU lower participation & expenditure than some countries with similar levels of development

Management of RSF - removals

Removal = Retained + Dead Releases

Sea bass (Northern)



1,468 t or 27%

Western Baltic cod



4,679 t or 27%

Other examples exist & catch share may increase over time, so recreational removals must be included in assessments

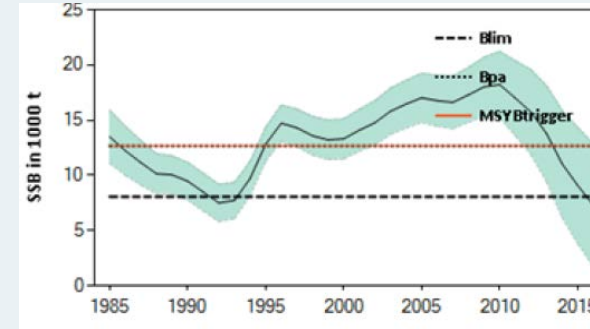
Management of RSF - European sea bass



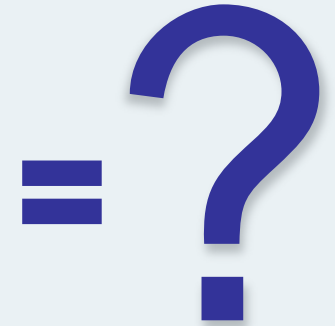
Slow growing, late maturing & high value



Commercial & recreational target



Stock declining



Management?

Combined assessment & management of recreational (minimum size, bag limits, closed seasons) & commercial (boat limits, closed areas, gear restrictions) sea bass fisheries

Management of RSF - new paradigm?



- Balance recreational objectives & manage alongside commercial fisheries (societal & policy)
- Allocate catch (sustainability & value)
- Consider recreational only (area & species)
- Assess impacts beyond fish (e.g. spatial planning)
- Develop science needed to achieve this:
 - Separate from subsistence fisheries (EURecFish)
 - Understand current status (WGRFS & EURecFish)
 - Broaden scope & methods for data collection
 - Build management approaches

Unlocking the potential

- Large expenditure – potential for future development & blue growth
- Integrated approach required to unlock potential across disciplines:
 - Societal & political - recognise importance
 - Policy - consider needs & preserve stocks
 - Evidence - assess impact & behaviour
 - Management - fair & equitable measures

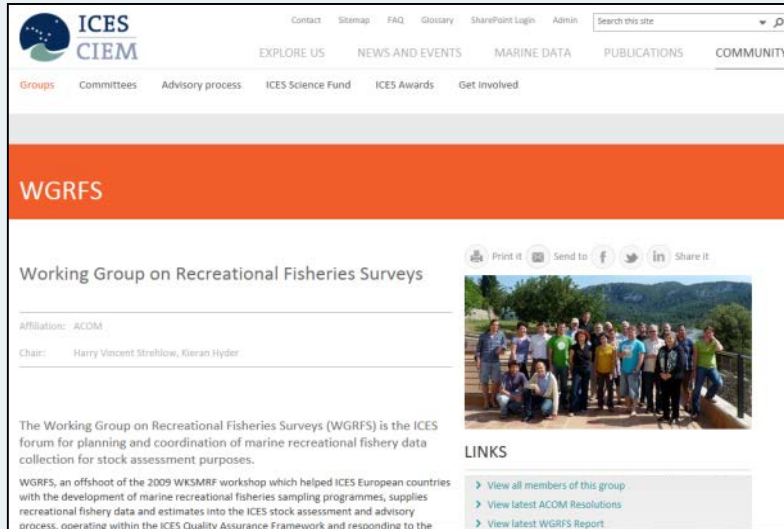


Summary

- Value & impact recognised in many countries
- Management challenges surround interaction with commercial fisheries
- Lack of knowledge may impact fisheries management (who fishes, catch & spend)
- Europe - 8.7M, 1.6%, 5.9B euro, & 78M days
- Management paradigm balancing RSF & commercial possible
- Develop potential if societal choice & political will combined with policy, evidence & management



Thanks for your attention!

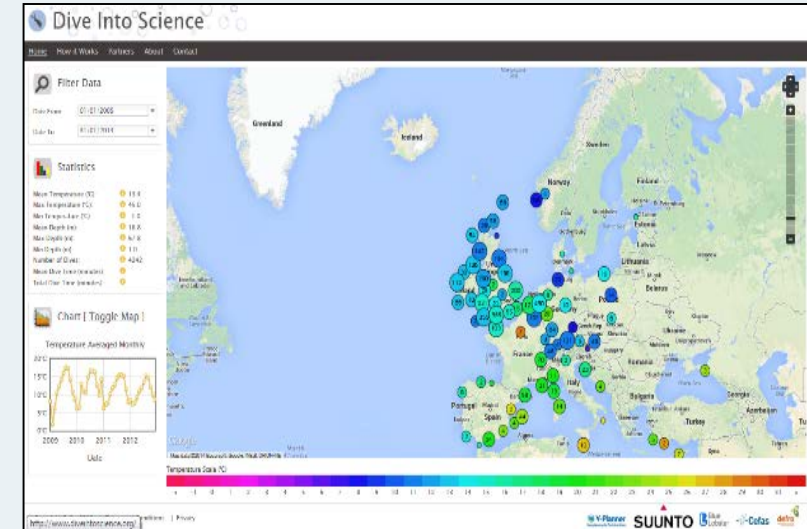


The screenshot shows the ICES CIEM website. The header includes navigation links like 'Contact', 'Sitemap', 'FAQ', 'Glossary', 'SharePoint Login', and 'Admin'. Below the header, there are sections for 'Groups', 'Committees', 'Advisory process', 'ICES Science Fund', 'ICES Awards', and 'Get Involved'. The main content area features a large orange banner with the text 'WGRFS' and a sub-header 'Working Group on Recreational Fisheries Surveys'. Below this, there is a group photo of the WGRFS members and a list of links for more information.

[ICES Working Group on Recreational Fisheries Surveys](#)



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