

# The Social and Economic Aspects of Recreational Angling

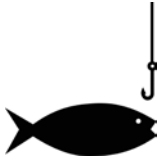
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# What is recreational fishing?

*Boundaries between fishing categories:  
Recreational-, commercial- and subsistence fishing*

Recreational Fishing (leisure - non-commercial – no sales or barter)			Commercial Fishing (for profit – with or without license)		
Recreational Angling (or 'sport fishing') (rod and line)	Other Recreational Fishing (spearfishing, nets, long lines, pots, traps etc.)	Charter boating	pesca turismo	All sorts of gear (commercial angling included)	Artisanal and small-scale
Subsistence fishing					

- Table produced by EFTTA and EAA



Read more here: [www.eaa-europe.org/topics/what-is-recreational-fishing](http://www.eaa-europe.org/topics/what-is-recreational-fishing)



# Motivation factors

***Recreational Angling is not just 'fishing for fun' as some people claim. It serves multiple purposes, which the angling dependant businesses know all about - which decision makers and fisheries managers ought to know much more about.***

**Anglers' motivations have been studied\*. Catching fish is, of course, a prime motivation factor, but a number of other factors are at play e.g.:**

- Relaxing in the outdoors at the waterside
- Socialising: go fishing with family members, friends, meet other anglers
- Experiencing a natural setting with diverse spawning habitats, fish refuges, and shoreline structure
- Enjoying the environment, flora and fauna, while fishing
- Being untroubled in an environment that is hardly disturbed by humans
- Catching 'the big one' (and, if lucky, tell about it with a picture on social-media)
- Tourism angling : domestically or abroad

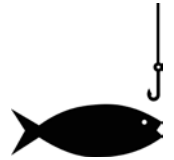
\* An example: *"On the Apparently Striking Disconnect between Motivation and Satisfaction in Recreational Fishing: the Case of Catch Orientation of German Anglers"*; by Robert Arlinghaus

[www.besatz-fisch.de/adaptfish/dn\\_pres.php?id=11&email=](http://www.besatz-fisch.de/adaptfish/dn_pres.php?id=11&email=)



# Recreational Angling

## - good for people and the society



- ❑ Angling contributes to people's health and life quality.
- ❑ Time spent outdoor alone or with friends and family are very important factors for health and well being.
- ❑ It brings our sedentary youth away from their PCs and playing machines. Elderly and disabled people go angling, too!
- ❑ Angling (re)connects people with nature.
- ❑ Some anglers' choice of academic career are triggered by their love for angling.
- ❑ The 'Get hooked on fishing' programme in UK creates opportunities for young people – building a brighter future for them, their families and local community:  
[www.ghof.org.uk](http://www.ghof.org.uk)
- ❑ A similar programme is run in the USA under the name 'Hooked On Fishing - Not On Drugs'  
[www.futurefisherman.org/f3programs/hooked-on-fishing-not-on-drugs-hofnod](http://www.futurefisherman.org/f3programs/hooked-on-fishing-not-on-drugs-hofnod)



Recreational angling 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.



# Socio-economic value of recreational angling

## - Germany -

- ❑ **Study:** 'Recreational Fisheries in Germany – a social and economical Analysis', Prof. Dr. R. Arlinghaus, Leibnitz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries; 2004

### In year 2002:

- ❑ **3,3 million German anglers** fished at least once in Germany or abroad.
- ❑ **They spent 6.4 billion Euros**, and
- ❑ about **52.000 jobs** were directly or indirectly dependent on recreational angling.



# Socio-economic value of recreational angling

## - Spain (Med Sea alone) -

- Study conducted by the Spanish Ministry for Fisheries and Agriculture (MAPA) \*

**“The expense generated by recreational fishing in the Spanish Mediterranean, significantly exceeds the value added generated by professional fishing. Sport fishing represents between 550 and 650 million € per year compared to 380 million € representing professional fishing.”**

*\* Estudio del impacto socioeconómico de la pesca recreativa en el Mediterráneo español (2003)*  
[www.mapa.gob.es/es/pesca/temas/pesca-deportiva-recreo/Estudio\\_tcm30-77484.pdf](http://www.mapa.gob.es/es/pesca/temas/pesca-deportiva-recreo/Estudio_tcm30-77484.pdf)





# Socio-economic value of recreational angling

## - Europe -

- ❑ **Sea angling:** This study was requested and funded by the European Parliament: 'Research for PECH Committee - Marine recreational and semi-subsistence fishing - its value and its impact on fish stocks'; Hyder et al. (2017)  
[www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/601996/IPOL\\_STU\(2017\)601996\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/601996/IPOL_STU(2017)601996_EN.pdf)
- ❑ **Findings:** ***“Total economic impact of marine recreational fishing amounts to 10.5 billion euro, supporting almost 100,000 jobs.”***
- ❑ **Freshwater angling:** Based on various national studies EFTTA and EAA find that economy and jobs are at about the same scale. Some studies can be found here: [www.eaa-europe.org/topics/socio-economics](http://www.eaa-europe.org/topics/socio-economics) (note: there are more freshwater than sea anglers, but they spend less than sea anglers on average)
- ❑ **Total angler spending:** European anglers spend annually more than **€ 20 billion** on tackle, boats, electronics, clothing, fishing tourism, fishing spots and lodges, travels, charter boats, fishing guides, hotels, gas, services, port taxes, licenses etc.

### The European angling tackle trade sector:

- **2,900** Manufacturers and wholesalers are trading in the industry.
- **12,900** retail shops and sport shops serve Europe's **25-30** million anglers.
- About **€ 2 billion** turnover in the tackle trade sector alone



# Recreational angling

## - good for tourism and the rural economy

- ❑ Europe's thousands of lakes and rivers, the very long coastline and its mighty seas provide an excellent basis for recreational angling tourism.
- ❑ Today, the potential is not developed or utilized to its fullest extent – far from it.
- ❑ Hundreds of specialized tour operators are operating in this sector but there could be many more.
- ❑ We do see an increase in fishing related destinations inside and outside Europe but there is potential for much more in all European countries.
- ❑ Fishing related tourism can bring jobs and economy to rural areas.
- ❑ **Example Ireland:** Angling tourism brings in **more revenue than golf**. In 2012 150,000 angling tourists visited Ireland, spending approximately €280 million:  
[www.fisheriesireland.ie/Press-releases/inland-fisheries-ireland-launch-public-consultation-on-national-angling-development-plan.html](http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/Press-releases/inland-fisheries-ireland-launch-public-consultation-on-national-angling-development-plan.html)
- ❑ Healthy fish stocks and plenty of big fish is attractive to any angler. That requires fisheries management, which has recreational fisheries at heart! For this reason, Ireland has banned commercial fisheries for sea bass.



# Data Collection

## - lack of data -

- ❑ **EU's data collection legislation requires too little** from the Member States with regard to collection of socio-economic data, which is a prerequisite to conduct proper and fair management of recreational fisheries.  
- **One reason for that shortcoming** seems to be the poor funding possibilities in the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) for this purpose.
- ❑ **A new EMFF for the period 2021-2027 is negotiated now. But, no indication that more funding will be accessible for recreational fisheries data collection, or development of the sector.**
- ❑ **Member States do their own studies but scarcely**, ad hoc, without cooperating with other countries. A few countries do regular surveys (e.g. Sweden and Finland).
- ❑ **We urge a sustainable financial solution to be found to secure funding to carry out a comprehensive EU wide socio-economic study every five year** as it happens in the USA.
- ❑ **We believe the cost won't be prohibitive** taking into account that the cost will be spread out on 5 years and 27 Member States. Such a recurring study is needed to achieve well-informed decision making by the legislators and fisheries/environment managers. Existing and new businesses making a living on recreational fishing also will warmly welcome such a study.
- ❑ **A model for a pan-European study to be conducted every five year - next slide:**

# PAN-EUROPEAN ANGLER SURVEY

## ACTIVE ANGLERS

- **how many**
- **who** (sociodemographic profile)
- **how often** (angling days)
- **where** (home regions, holiday countries)
- **which type of fishery + species of fish**

	sea	coasts	rivers	lakes	ponds
"game"					
"coarse"					

- **how much do they spend**

equipment & tackle	fees & licenses	travel & accomodation	boats & rental	other items

- **indicators for growth potential**
  - general willingness to pay more
  - presently unexploited interest in angling holidays
  - interest in upgraded services (courses, guides)

## POTENTIAL ANGLERS

past anglers + interested starters

- **how many & who** (sociodemography)
- **interest in angling holidays** (countries / regions, sea – rivers – lakes)
- **potential expenditure levels**

Satellite Study A  
**Fishing Waters & Fish Populations**  
Typology, Trends

Satellite Study B  
**Fishery Management**  
Owners, Managers,  
Angling Clubs

Satellite Study C  
**Aquaculture & Angling**  
Importance & chances of  
production for fish stocking

Satellite Study D  
**Tackle Trade & Equipment Providers**  
producers–wholesale–retailers

Satellite Study E  
**Sea Angling & Tourism**  
Status, Case Studies,  
Chances – Stakeholders

Satellite Study F  
**Angling Tourism in Inland Waters**  
Status, Stakeholders, Trends

Satellite Study G  
**Angling and Environment**  
The view of hydrobiologists,  
governmental bodies & NGOs

Satellite Study H  
**Angling Media + Internet**  
present scope, importance as  
partner for future growth

# The joy of angling



# The joy of angling



Olivier Portrat, EFTTA CEO