

# Recreational Sea Angling for Bass in EU - people involved, economic and social value



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*"Recreational sea angling has a great development potential but not recognised by the EU's Common Fisheries Policy"*



Jean Claude BEL CEO European Fishing Tackle Trade Association



## Recreational Sea Angling for Bass shows a huge diversity:

- Bass is fished from the beach, rocks and from boats.
- Bass are caught by various techniques i.e. fly fishing, spinning and trolling.
- People of all ages and income levels go bass fishing.



# Recreational Sea Angling for Bass requires catching equipment and outfit, of course.

These expenditures supports a plenitude of businesses, and brings a great contribution to the economy !

## Equipment and outfit includes:

- High end strong and long lasting rods and reels.
- Other tackle, lines, artificial baits etc.
- Clothes and footwear
- Boats and accessories (GPS, trailers, and even cars).
- Gas, moorings and more



# Recreational Sea Angling for bass - value: € 20 billion



- ❑ It is estimated that more than **25 million** Europeans engage in recreational angling.
- ❑ **8-10 million** go sea angling.
- ❑ EFTTA estimates that **40-50%** of the recreational sea anglers attempt to catch bass.  
(Study: "Invest in Fish", South West of England (2005)).
- ❑ **The tackle trade alone:**
  - ❑ **2900 manufacturers and wholesalers** are trading in the industry,
  - ❑ up to 50 % of them are involved in **sea fishing** (depending on the countries).
  - ❑ **12 900 retail shops** and sport shops serve the **>25** millions anglers.  
*Half of these shops are close to the coasts or sell sea fishing equipment.*
  - ❑ **About € 2.5 billion turnover** in the tackle trade sector alone.

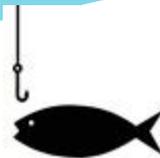
## ❑ Tackle trade and other businesses:

**Over € 15 billion** per year are spent by sea anglers in tackle shops, on boats, electronics, clothing, fishing tourism, fishing spots and lodges, travels, charter boats and fishing guides, hotels, gas, services, port taxes etc. **When all expenses are included** (e.g. magazines, administration, management, science etc.) then the total is ca. **€ 20 billion** per year.

- ❑ **France: About 65 % of sea anglers' expenses are linked to sea bass fishing!**



# Recreational Angling for Bass = Best value per kilo



- ❑ Recreational angling generates **significantly more net economic output per kilo fish** than other fish exploiting sectors, and the environmental impact is very limited.
- ❑ ICES suggests that angling is responsible for **25%** of the total bass landings
- ❑ The revenues generated by **sea bass caught by anglers are much higher than the ones created by the 75 %** caught by commercials, subsidies and tax exemptions deducted .
- ❑ Sea bass angling supports thousands of jobs in tackle and boats industries, as well as coastal economies and tourism. **It is vital for the coastal economies in terms of development.**
- ❑ "Recreational sea angling has a great development potential but unfortunately this is not recognised by the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)."



# Well managed recreational fishing is a sustainable activity, which also supports nature conservation

- ❑ The recreational angling industry fights for robust fish stocks and a healthy aquatic environment.

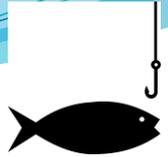
*A plentiful and robust resource (fish stocks) is the prerequisite for a sustainable and healthy business.*

- ❑ The industry is also acting as, together with anglers and their associations, the “Eyes and Ears” of the aquatic environment.

*They are often the first ones to discover and denounce abusing practices.*

- ❑ Recreational angling is an environmentally low impact activity. Fish can be released with a high survival rate. Catch and release is a fast growing attitude among anglers as a mean to assist conservation efforts.





# Sea Bass resource management (1)

*The industry fully agrees that recreational angling should be affected by conservation measures, but*

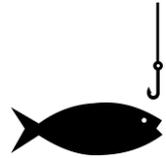
- ❑ Angling is treated disproportionately or unfairly compared with other bass exploiting métiers.
- ❑ 30<sup>th</sup> of April the ban on pelagic trawling expires. Then angling - and thereby the sports fishing industry - are the only ones targeted by bass restrictions.
- ❑ Fish should stay in the centre of the debate and not seen as the property of a minority of actors, which is heavily supported by public money.

## → Decisions should be justified

- ❑ There is a lack of pan European scientific studies to justify the uneven measures that have been taken.
- ❑ We still are puzzled on how the bag limit could be legislated by EU in “the TAC and quota” legislation when recreational fisheries is not fully recognised in the CFP, on an equal footing with commercial fisheries and aquaculture?



## Sea Bass resource management (2)



*The industry fully agrees that recreational angling should be affected by conservation measures, but*

### → Decisions should be equitable

❑ In France **Minimum Landing Size (MLS)** is **higher** for the recreational than for the commercial

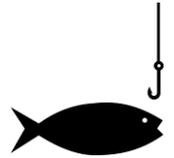
*→ This is not equitable, out of common sense and comprehension*

❑ The current measures close spawning zones to an **insufficient number of boats**, without significant positive results on the resource.

*→ Frustrated recreational anglers see that landings continue and the statistics showing landings growth caused by other métiers than the banned pelagic trawling.*



## Sea Bass resource management (3)



*The industry fully agrees that recreational angling should be affected by conservation measures, but*

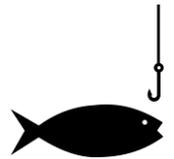
**→ legislation needs be enforced**

- ❑ There is a **lack of controls and willingness** to have the laws properly enforced for both recreational and commercial.
- ❑ Poachers are known by the community and the authorities but still continue their activities with almost no risk.
- ❑ There is **not enough controls towards the poachers' customers** (often restaurants) or the sanctions are ridiculous compared to the gain.

**This needs to become a priority as poaching is a plague that damages the image of honest anglers and commercial fishermen.**



# Sea Bass resource management (4)

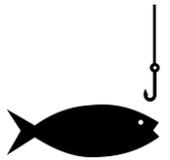


## *As an industry, we ask The European Parliament:*

- ❑ To work for proper and equitable measures by establishing **Minimum Landing and selling Sizes for everybody and everywhere at a minimum of 42 cm.**
- ❑ To **decide temporal fishing closures from January to May/June in the legislated area (December to March/April in the more southern areas)**
- ❑ To legislate proper **minimum mesh sizes** to accompany and make effective the (42cm) MLS without discards.
- ❑ To **fix a bag limit of any kind** which does not put in danger the industry: easy to understand and to control. (the present bag limit is only in force this year)



## Sea Bass resource management (5)



*A Growing population with more big fish is a healthy resource, to the satisfaction of everybody:*

- Commercial fishermen by catching more quality premium fish, which fetch higher sales prices.*
- Aquaculture will experience more demand for their “Plate size fishes” (which are immature bass, <42cm)*
- Our businesses – the angling dependant businesses – will benefit from more happy anglers catching and eating or releasing more bass from fishery, which will be sustainable.*



# Thank you and do not forget ...



Let's be sure that they can enjoy fishing  
for years too,  
it is in Your Hands !

