

Recreational fisheries' contribution to the EU green agenda

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The green agenda, the blue sea and angling

Common fisheries policy and Marine Recreational Fisheries (I)

- MRF is not recognised as a separate sector in the CFP
- Regulation of MRF under the CFP is up though
- So as a society, we expect more and more of our anglers
- Which touches the lives of millions of EU citizens



The green agenda, the blue sea and angling

Common fisheries policy and Marine Recreational Fisheries (II)

We learn from CFP article 17:

'When allocating the fishing opportunities available to them, ...

Member States shall use transparent and objective criteria including those of an environmental, social and economic nature.'

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-8-2016-008239_EN.html

And in the Western Waters multi-annual plan we read:

'When mortality caused by recreational fishing has a significant impact on a stock managed on the basis of MSY, the Council should be able to set non-discriminatory limits for recreational fishermen.

The Council should refer to transparent and objective criteria when setting such limits.'

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32019R047>



How angling ties in to the green agenda

- Anglers are committed to sustainable fisheries and protection of fish stocks
- We enjoy nature and help protect the aquatic environment
- Recreational sea angling not only offers a high value to society but comes with a low impact:
 - We practice catch & cook but also catch & release
 - Each fish taken home is food on a families' table !
 - We practice targeted fishing
 - When released, fish show a high survival
 - We don't influence the ocean floor ecosystem



Advocacy for sustainable stock management

Seabass

- Vocal supporter for stock conservation and protection of breeding grounds and nursery areas for over 10 years
- We lobbied for a higher minimum size (MCRS) to allow fish to spawn
- Regretfully stock needed to crash first before measures were taken
- Anglers were hit hard by seasonal closure and bag limits



How RSA supports science (I)

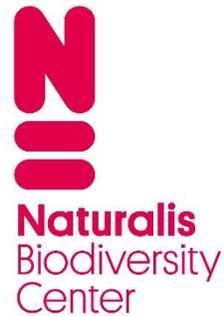
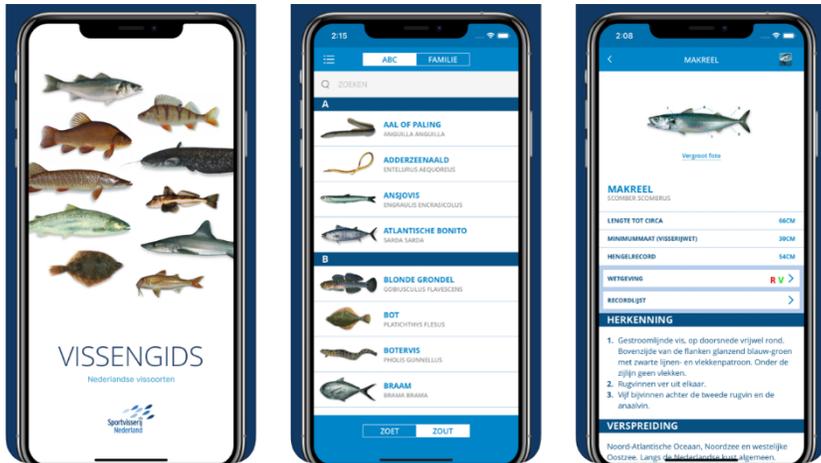
Tagging projects



How RSA supports science (II)

Fish recognition app

- Service to anglers – know what you catch
- Register catches in national ecological research database
- Better data -> better policy



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The future of angling

- Trends seem to indicate a downfall in participation
- There is no policy for angling, just for impact & control
 - we know that sea angling has this high socio-economic value: 10,5 billion & 100.000 jobs
 - lost opportunity



Enter the Control Regulation

- EC reform proposal is supported by RSA
 - Proposals for angler registration and catch reporting
 - But: fairness
 - to keep our base on board



Angling needs a holistic management approach to thrive

- Recognition as a separate fishery sector in the CFP
 - To properly manage public access to a public resource
- Look at impact, controls but also socio-economics, cultural importance & opportunity
- We need a seat at the table to flourish !



Thank you for your attention

