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**Recognition of Recreational Sea Fishing in the UK:  
An Angling Community Perspective**  
*Hannah Rudd (Marine Policy & Research Manager, Angling Trust)*



# European Parliament Forum on Recreational Fisheries and Aquatic Environment

## *Recreational Sea Angling UK*

- Around 800,000 or 1.6% of UK adults went sea angling at least once each year (Hyder et al., 2020)
- On average, anglers spent over £1,000 per year on their sport, resulting in a total economic impact of sea angling of between 1.5 and 2 billion pounds (Hyder et al., 2020)
- Approximately 15,000 jobs in the sector (Hyder et al, 2020)
- Over 100 species targeted (Hyder et al., 2020)
- Around 50 million fish caught and around 80% released (Hyder et al, 2020)





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## *Fisheries Act (2020)*

- Legislation on UK fisheries following the UK's departure from the EU Common Fisheries Policy.
- Recognises recreational sea fishing as a stakeholder in UK fisheries
- Supported by Joint Fisheries Statement & Fisheries Management Plans

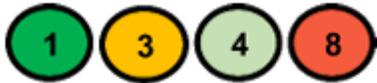




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## Joint Fisheries Statement

### 4.2.16. Recreational Sea Fishing



- 4.2.16.1 The fisheries policy authorities will continue to work together - where possible, practicable and appropriate - to ensure recreational sea fishing is environmentally, socially and economically sustainable, and therefore contributes to the achievement of the sustainability objective. We will aim, where possible, to take account of recreational sea fishing in wider fisheries management.
- 4.2.16.2 This will continue to be underpinned by encouraging data collection on catches, economic impact, and species-specific data across the recreational sea fishing sector, and ensuring recreational interests are part of relevant stakeholder engagement processes. In doing so, we will contribute to the ecosystem and scientific evidence objectives.

Sustainability Objective



Ecosystem Objective



Scientific Evidence Objective



Climate Change Objective





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## *Fisheries Management Plans*

- More than 40 Fisheries Management Plans (outlined in Joint Fisheries Statement)
- Recreational fisheries integrated throughout for plans that feature recreationally important species
- Emphasis on social, economic and environmental sustainability, including specific actions for recreational fisheries
- Identify social, economic and environmental evidence needs to meet objectives under Fisheries Act (2020) and Joint Fisheries Statement





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## Government Funding



Fisheries Industry Science Industry Partnerships



Best Practice Guidance for Recreational Anglers



Citizen Science Water Quality Monitoring Network



Marine Conservation





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## *New Fishing Opportunities*



**Catch-and-Release Recreational Bluefin Tuna Fishery**

Thank you for your  
attention!