

Intergroup on... Recreational Fishing

KEY OBJECTIVES

- To establish a Parliamentary Intergroup on Recreational Fishing. EAA and EFTTA offer to act as the Secretariat for the group.
- To bring together MEPs and the angling community.
- To give MEPs access to EAA and EFTTA in-house experts and their broad network of scientists and other people with in-depth knowledge about recreational fishing, environment conservation and protection issues, fisheries management etc.
- To serve as a forum for discussion on the European Parliament's agenda for recreational fishing, environment, rural development, fishing tourism etc.

SOME EXAMPLES OF LEGISLATION THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WILL BE DEALING WITH IN 2014

- The Commission's proposed new legislation to prevent and manage the rapidly growing threat from *Invasive Alien Species (IAS)*;
- The implementation of the *Water Framework Directive (WFD)* including the 'Blue Print' and the second cycle of the River Basins Management Plans;
- The implementation of the *Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)*;
- The implementation of the reformed *Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)*.



Ms. Damanaki
Fisheries
Commissioner

Intergroup on... Recreational Fishing

HOW MANY MEETINGS?

We envisage 4-6 events a year beginning in early 2014. The events will bring members of the Intergroup and event participants into direct contact with key officials from the Commission and Council as well as relevant stakeholders and scientists. Events are arranged around issues on the EP agenda. An event will last one and a half to two hours.

ABOUT EAA AND EFTTA



EAA is a pan-European organisation for recreational angling. It promotes and defends European recreational anglers' interests at a European level and beyond. The EAA was launched in Brussels in 1994. It is recognized as a non-governmental organisation (NGO) and registered as a not-for-profit organisation. There are about 3 million affiliated members to EAA's 14 member organisations in 13 European countries.

www.eaa-europe.eu
email@eaa-europe.eu



EFTTA is the leading European trade association for manufacturers and wholesalers of sport fishing equipment. EFTTA was established in London in 1981 and has about 250 members from across Europe.

www.eftta.com
info@eftta.com



Proposal European Parliament Intergroup



Recreational Fishing

2014
>2019

INTERGROUP



SECRETARIAT

**European Anglers Alliance (EAA)
and European Fishing Tackle Trade
Association (EFTTA)**

Rue du Luxembourg 47, 1050 Brussels, Belgium. Tel +32 (0)2 286 5956

The importance of Recreational Fishing

People go fishing for relaxation, to catch fish for food, to enjoy the experience and nature, or to be together with friends or family.

RECREATIONAL ANGLING IS ALL-INCLUSIVE



It attracts people of all ages from all walks of life. It is a great activity for people of all abilities.

HEALTHY PEOPLE

Time spent outdoors is crucial for health and wellbeing.

Most Europeans spend too

little time outdoors due to work and an urban indoor lifestyle. In particular *our children have become victims of a modern sedentary lifestyle*, spending most of their free time in front of computers and electronic games. Recreational angling brings them out into the natural world and fresh air.

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

The recreational fishing sector is, of course, reliant on abundant, healthy fish stocks, clean water and good access to fishing spots. Anglers and their organisations are strongly engaged with these issues on a daily basis – both politically and practically. Tens of thousands of volunteers spend hundreds of thousands of days on aquatic habitat conservation projects every year.

MILLIONS OF PARTICIPANTS – billions of Euros

The World Bank has estimated that some 220 million people are involved with recreational fishing worldwide.

“The total annual expenditure on recreational fisheries is conservatively estimated at over \$190 billion” ... “Recreational fisheries can be of greater economic importance than commercial fisheries in some countries.”

‘THE HIDDEN HARVESTS – THE GLOBAL CONTRIBUTION OF CAPTURE FISHERIES’ THE WORLD BANK, FAO, WORLDFISH CENTER (2010)

Recreational Fishing in Europe

In Europe, at least twenty five million people go fishing. They generate a socio-economic value of more than 25 billion Euros a year.

RECREATIONAL ANGLING...

- is **beneficial** to the European economy and society. 2,900 companies are associated with recreational fishing in EU. 12,900 tackle shops serve more than 25 million anglers.

- **shows** a total socio-economic value of more than 25 billion Euros annually.

- **creates** hundreds of thousands of job opportunities often in rural areas.

- **supports** nature conservation. Anglers protect fish stocks, waters and the surrounding environment.

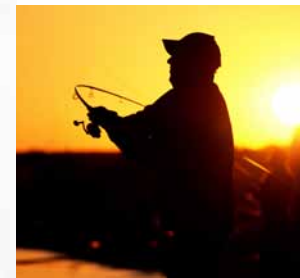
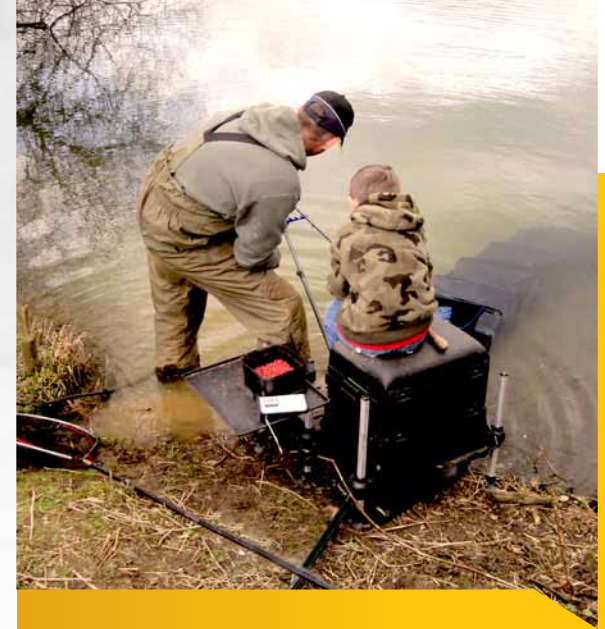
- is **healthy**. It brings people into contact with nature and provides relaxation and physical activity. Medical care: ‘Casting for Recovery’ is a programme run in US, Canada, New Zealand, UK and Ireland. It provides an opportunity for women whose lives have been affected by breast cancer to gather on retreat in a natural setting around fly fishing.

- helps **tourism**. Fishing is a fast growing business with a huge growth potential.

- **preserves** fish populations. It is carried out by using rods, lines and hooks, which have a low impact on the environment.

- is **selective**. Fish are caught one at a time; undersized fish are returned so that they can continue to grow.

The social benefits recreational angling brings to individuals and societies, jobs and the economic impact, are not well known - but they are many and huge!



• Angling organisations are well connected with national MPs, but not so well with their MEPs.

• **The Intergroup would help bridge this gap.**

• The EAA and EFTTA are communicating directly with the 25 million strong European angling community via its members, the EAA and EFTTA websites, press releases, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

• Much legislation dealt with by the European Parliament has a direct impact on fish stocks and the aquatic environment and thereby the quality of the angling experience and wellbeing of the angling community.

• Hence the Recreational Fishing Intergroup is proposed to improve contact and communication between the MEPs and their 25 million angling constituents.

• email@eaa-europe.eu
• info@eftta.com