



IS THERE A NEED FOR A CODE OF PRACTICE FOR RECREATIONAL FISHERIES?

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Importance of recreational fisheries examples from Europe

2900 companies – 60,000 jobs in fishing tackle trade with
annual turnover of **5 billion Euros**.

25 million recreational fishermen representing **6.5% of EU**
population spend estimated **25 billion Euros per year**
(European Anglers Alliance 2004)

Compare EU-25 total fishery imports - 24 billion Euros
total fishery exports - 13 billion Euros
employment in fisheries – 746,000

Also major contribution to food security needs in Eastern
Europe

Importance of recreational fisheries examples from Rest of the World

USA:

44 million recreational anglers spent \$ 42 billion in 2001

Broad economic impact of sport fishing \$116 billion in 2001

(National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation 2001)

New Zealand - expenditure US\$ 900 per angler / year

Australia - expenditure As\$ 1000 per angler / year

- Queensland As\$ 880 million / year

Estimated total recreational catch worldwide: 2 million

tonnes (Coates 2001)

Issues related to recreational fisheries

Fish and fishery related

- Over exploitation
- Poor population or community structure (size and species)
- Stock enhancement becoming prevalent
- Competition and predation from alien species
- Fish-eating birds

Environment related

- Habitat degradation
- Pollution
- Water resource development schemes
- Catchment management
- Nutrient enrichment
- Climate change

Socio-economic related

- Fish welfare
- Poor political awareness
- Poor economic valuation
- Poor image with younger age groups
- Ignorance of conservation issues
- Legislation not enforceable

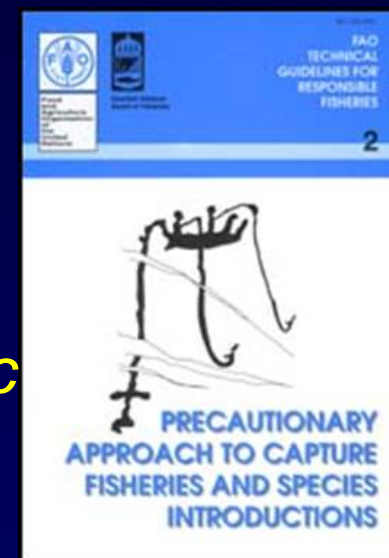
Raises the need for Code of Practice for Responsible Recreational Fisheries

Examples of codes in many countries but no generic protocol

Consider FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) as framework

CCRF states “ *Fisheries provide a vital source of food employment, recreation, trade and economic well being for people throughout the world, both for present and future generations and should therefore be conducted in a responsible manner*”

Proposal to develop recreational fisheries code under EIFAC in conjunction with EAA



Role of EIFAC in fostering recreational fisheries in Europe

Working Party on Recreational Fisheries revived in 1994 with aims to organise conference (19th session of EIFAC in Dublin, June 1996 - *Social, Economic and Management Aspects of Recreational Fisheries* Hickley & Tompkins 1998) and produce Code of Practice)

Dublin 1996 served as the starting point for what is known as the World Recreational Fisheries Conference

- 1999 Vancouver (Pitcher & Hollingworth 2002)
- 2002 Darwin (Coleman 2003)
- 2005 Trondheim (Aas in press)
- 2008 Florida, November 2008

Call for Code of Practice at all previous conferences.

Role of EIFAC in fostering recreational fisheries in Europe

- Despite EIFAC Working Party on Recreational Fisheries Code of Practice was never fully developed, although former WP Leader, Bernard Breton, produced a short statement in 2006
- Additional work on recreational fisheries was conducted within the Subcommittee IV “Social and Economic Issues”
- Results primarily published in reports and scholarly papers including species issues of *Fisheries Management and Ecology* on
 - Issue 4-5, 2001, Symposium on Fisheries and Society (Sipponen ed.)
 - Issue 3-4, 2004, Symposium on Effect of Fisheries Management Practices on Freshwater Ecosystems (Cowx and Gerdeaux eds)

Role of EIFAC in fostering recreational fisheries in Europe

- June 2006, Robert Arlinghaus elected Convenor of the WP on Recreational Fisheries
- With support by the Central Fisheries Board in Ireland (Joe Caffrey), EIFAC (Prof Ian Cowx), FAO (Raymon van Anrooy), the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (Arjo Rothuis) and the Dutch Recreational Fishing Association (Fret Bloot) serious work on the Code of Practice started in 2007
- What started as an “European” initiative in 1994 is to be developed into an official FAO document through EIFAC to complement the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries – global perspective

AIM of Code of Practice for Responsible Recreational Fisheries

Provide code of practice that is acceptable to the recreational fisheries sector and society to:

- Promote sustainable recreational fisheries
- Recognise the ecological, social and economic dimensions
- Minimise conflicts with other aquatic resource user groups
- Respond proactively to fish welfare issues