

# How many recreational fishers? How much fish? Where?

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# Why is recreational fisheries important?



- Large numbers – users of the marine environment
- High value
- Removals – may impact on achieving management objectives (MSY)
- Management & allocation of resources between sectors

Hyder et al. (2014, 2017, 2018)

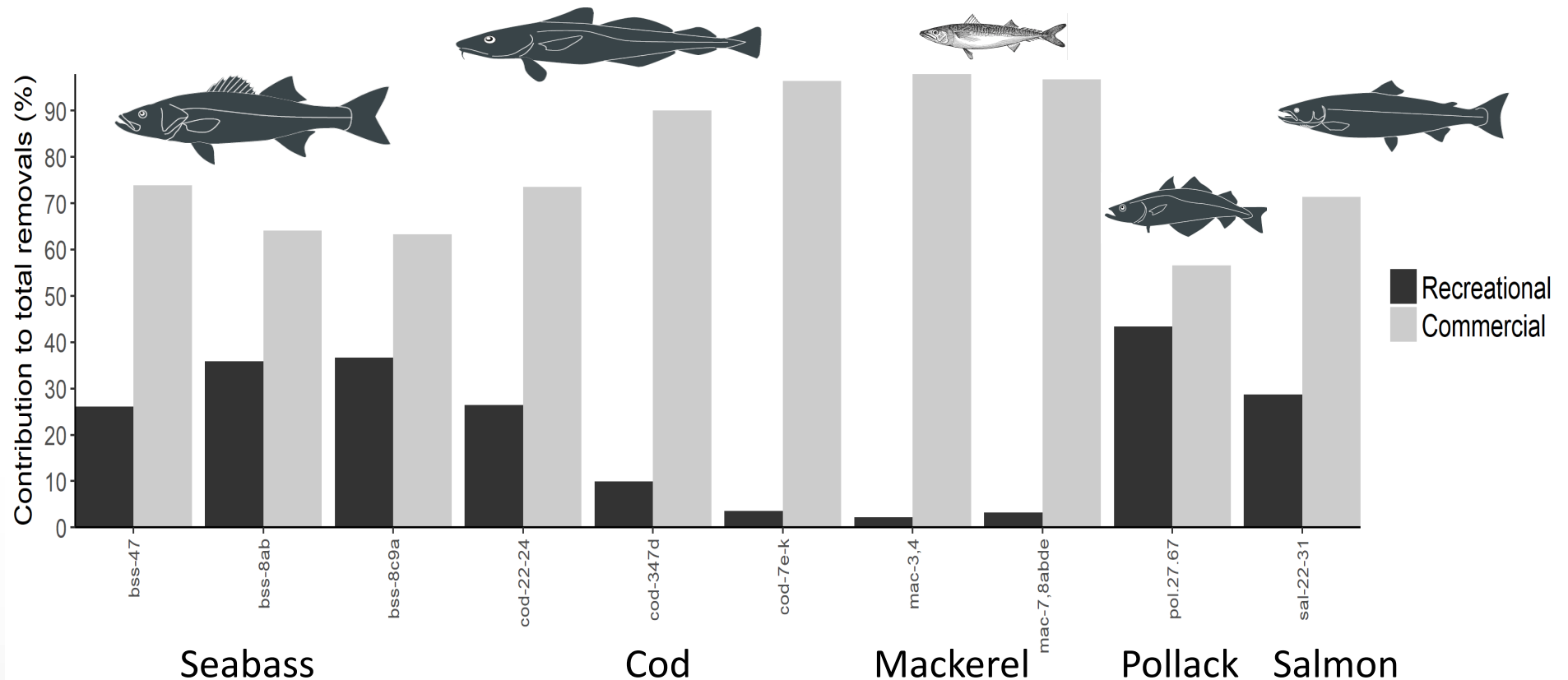
# Important activity in Europe



Category	Total
Numbers (millions)	8.67
Participation (%)	1.60
Activity (million days)	77.6
Days per angler	9.04
Expenditure (billion €)	5.89
Spend per angler (€)	679
Economic impact (billion €)	10.5
Number of FTEs (thousands)	97.2

Hyder et al. (2018)

# MRF impact – comparison with commercial



## Impacts:

- Stock: 2-43% removals
- Live bait (disease & NNS)
- Lead (sinker loss)

Radford et al. 2018 | Lewin et al. 2019

# Diverse & challenging sector



## Platforms

- Shore
- Private boat
- Charter boat

## Gears

- Angling
- Nets & traps
- Spearfishing
- Gathering

## Target

- Fish
- Crustaceans
- Molluscs
- Algae

## Participant

- Activity
- Motivation
- Organisation
- Impact

Difficult to monitor, assess, manage & enforce

# Management paradox



VS



Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)

Maximum Total Satisfaction (MTS)

Competing objectives are not always compatible, so may require trade-offs between sectors

# Fisheries legislation

General legal background:

- Control Reg focuses on „vessels“ – does not apply to recreational fisheries where the „individual“ is the legal entity
- Landing obligation and EU MLS do not apply
- Recreational fisheries jurisdiction lies with the MS
- In the case of fish stocks below limit reference points (violation of CFP objectives) recreational fisheries jurisdiction lies with the EU

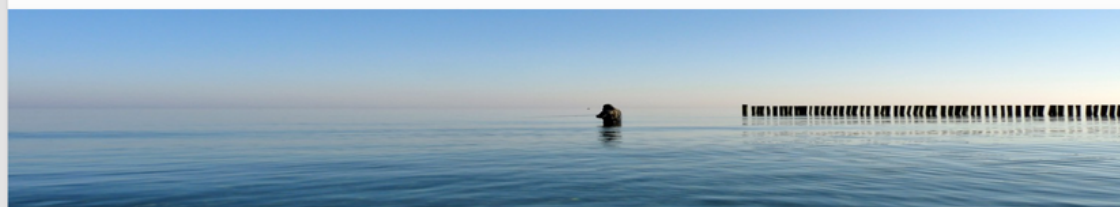
# How do we know how much fish is actually caught?

Conduct recreational fishing surveys BUT no one-size fits all approach due to diverse nature of the sector & cultural differences!

- Multispecies surveys for all countries needed
- Combination of on-site and off-site approaches
- Licensing would help to develop surveys
- Include economic value and social benefits

## Challenges for data collection

1. no central registration of recreational fishers
2. recreational catches not documented
3. recreational fishers fish in remote and hard to access areas
4. Surveys difficult & expensive
5. Many countries exploit the same stock



Page 4  
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Harry V. Strehlow  
Marine Recreational Fisheries – Data Collection





# Take home messages

- Anglers take a significant but variable amount of fish
- Paradigm shift is necessary - recreational fishing in some countries is becoming more important than commercial fishing – high value sector
- Sector highly diverse requires controls of all platforms and individuals
- Angler don't maximize catch but satisfaction
- Understanding how anglers are affected by regulations is crucial to sustain the sector and ensure the continued economic benefit to coastal regions

# References

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# Thanks for your attention!



[ICES Working Group on Recreational Fisheries Surveys](#)

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