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EAA recommends Article 47 to be deleted in the draft for a new Fisheries Control Regulation

European recreational anglers have today called for Article 47 to be deleted from the draft of the new Community Fisheries Control Regulation.¹

In January, the European Anglers Alliance (EAA) delivered an "Initial Response"² to the Commission, Parliament and Member States and has since then, along with its member organisations in each member state, provided additional information and input to the consultation. The EAA also held a meeting with Commissioner Joe Borg in April. For months a working group under the Council of Ministers, chaired by the Commission, has worked on improving draft texts, taking into consideration stakeholders' input and the European Parliament's opinions. The working group is done and has delivered a text for the Ministers to discuss at the Council (fisheries) meeting 19 October. The Ministers might adopt a final text at their November meeting. The new Control Regulation shall take effect 1 January.

EAA has worked proactively with the Commission, the working group under the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament in an attempt to make Article 47 (which would affect recreational fisheries) coherent, workable and fair towards recreational angling. The various draft texts have been changed somewhat in the right direction. However, much – far too much – is still unclear and unresolved. EAA believes that the timescale to resolve all outstanding issues concerning recreational fisheries properly before the deadline is far too short.

After careful consideration the EAA General Assembly has decided to call on the Council to delete Article 47 for the above and the following reasons:

- Inclusion of a mechanism to control recreational fisheries is not justified by any factual evidence and should not be implemented without amending the basic EU CFP regulation.
- It is essential to have an overview of how recreational catches are to be counted and dealt with today by a) individual Member States; b) ICES. Some catches are already counted for fully or partly under existing management schemes.
- Quota implications as set out in Art 47(5) are not well thought-out and might have severe implications for the relative stability. Member states might be confronted with unsolvable questions as to the method for establishing a share of the current quota for recreational purposes,
- The Member States do not have the capacity to control tens of thousands of boats and millions of anglers.
- A too simplistic "extrapolation model" might be imposed on recreational angling, which most likely will mean too little quota of important recreational angling species. The socio-economic consequences for coastal areas and businesses, many of which depend on sportfishing, could be dramatic.
- The CFP reform – to be finalised in 2012 – should be the starting point. A recreational fisheries chapter should be added before going into detail as to how to control these fisheries.

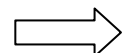
EAA, European Anglers Alliance

Peter Mohnert, President of the EAA

John Crudden, Board member and Chairman of the EAA Subgroup Sea Angling

Jan Kappel, Secretary General

Notes for editors:



¹ Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy, 14.11.2008, COM(2008) 721 final, 2008/0216 (CNS).

² Link: http://www.eaa-europe.eu/fileadmin/templates/uploads/CFP_EU_s_Common_Fisheries_Policy/EAA_Initial_Response_Art_47_response_FIN2.pdf

Notes for editors - document links:

PROPOSAL for a COUNCIL REGULATION establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy, Brussels, **14.11.2008**, COM(2008) 721 final, 2008/0216 (CNS). In all EU languages:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52008PC0721:EN:NOT>

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT accompanying the Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy **IMPACT ASSESSMENT** {SEC(2008) 2760}:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=SEC:2008:2760:FIN:EN:PDF>

SUMMARY in all EU languages SEC(2008) 2761:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52008SC2761:EN:NOT>

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL on the proposal for a Council Regulation establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy, Brussels, **14.11.2008** COM(2008) 718 final

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0718:FIN:EN:PDF>

Final amended Control Regulation text, which went from the Commission to the Council recently: Please, ask the European Commission +32 (0)2 299 1111 - DG MARE/Control Unit

Article 47 (as it reads in the amended version of **4 September**):

Article 47 Recreational fisheries

1. Member States shall ensure that recreational fisheries on their territory, and in Community waters are conducted in a manner compatible with the objectives and rules of the Common Fisheries Policy.
2. The marketing of catches from recreational fisheries shall be prohibited.
3. Without prejudice to Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 of 25 February 2008 establishing a Community framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy, Member States shall monitor, on the basis of a sampling plan, the catches of stocks subject to recovery plans by recreational fisheries practised from vessels flying their flag and from third country vessels, in waters subject to their sovereignty or jurisdiction. Fishing from shore shall not be included.
4. The Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) shall evaluate the biological impact of recreational fisheries as referred to in paragraph 3. Where a recreational fishery is found to have a significant impact, the Commission may decide, in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 111 to submit recreational fisheries as referred to in paragraph 3 to specific management measures such as fishing authorisations and catching declarations.
5. Member States concerned by measures decided in accordance with paragraph 4 shall establish a share from their quotas to be used exclusively for the purpose of recreational fisheries. In such cases, catches shall be counted against the relevant quotas of the concerned Member State.
6. Detailed rules for the application of this Article shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 111.

***EAA, European Anglers Alliance
- for fish, aquatic environment and anglers***

***“The European Recreational Angling Sector: 25 million anglers; 8-10 million sea anglers
Generating euro 25 billions in socio-economic value every year”***