



European Fishing Tackle Trade Association  
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## 2019 ACHIEVEMENTS BY EFTTA LOBBYING & PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM REPORT FROM BRUSSELS

### ABOUT US

From our office in Brussels located close to the European institutions, Jan Kappel and our specialized consultants at Alienor EU are constantly in contact with the key people in the EU Parliament, influential MEPs and EU Commission officials in order to identify and address opportunities for and threats to our industry.

EFTTA Brussels Bureau | 81a, rue de la Loi, Brussels

### EFTTA LOBBY POLICY

EFTTA together with the European Anglers Alliance (EAA) provide the secretariat to the Forum on Recreational Fisheries and Aquatic Environment (RecFish Forum) at the European Parliament.

Events arranged in 2019-2020:

- The Water Framework Directive Fitness Check and the protection of EU waters
- Relaunch event of the RecFish Forum
- Recreational fisheries in the EU: state of play, governance, perspectives

We hope to arrange two more events this year.

#### LOBBY

Continuous urge and lobby for sportfishings' benefits recognition

#### TRADE SUPPORT

Valuable source of news and information for our members

#### EVENTS

Organisation of annual events within the European Parliament on sportfishing's legislation and key topics



## SEA BASS



We have successfully lobbied the EU's sea bass management measures. In 2018 anglers were not allowed to retain any bass (Northern waters), which deeply affected the industry. We achieved to have a bag limit instated for 2019 (1 fish, 7 months), with an increase for 2020 (2 fish, 9 months) - to ease the negative impact on recreational fishing and the industry. In 2018, together with EAA we opened a case with the European Court of Justice, which we closed when the bass bag limit had been reinstated.

Over the years we have achieved the bass stock to be protected by the EU, most notably a stop for bass trawling during the spawning period south of UK. Other measures include an increase of the minimum landing size from 36 to 42 cm, a range of catch restrictions put in place for commercial fisheries as well as the introduction of an angling bag limit.

## BALTIC COD



We have successfully lobbied some harsh western Baltic cod restrictions on angling.

The EU Commission had proposed a bag-limit of only 2 fish for 2020, but the final result became 5 fish due to our efforts.

## FISHING LEAD



EFTTA has provided to the Commission experts input to a pending attempt to restrict or ban lead sinkers, jigs and pilks.

EFTTA finds a total ban unnecessary/disproportional.

## PLASTIC LITTER



EFTTA is engaged with the pending implementation of EU's new legislation on fishing plastic litter. EFTTA seeks to secure the continued use of nylon fishing lines, and to avoid disproportional cost implications for our industry with regard to waste collection and treatment as well as awareness raising as required by the legislation.

We have urged recreational fishing not to be treated disproportionately harsh in comparison with other fisheries stakeholders (commercial fisheries and aquaculture). EFTTA supports and promote line recycling projects like the one by 'Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme'.

## EU CONTROL REGULATION

A revision of the EU's fisheries control regulation is pending. Among many proposed changes some are directed recreational fisheries (more control of catches, marking of gear, registration of boats...). EFTTA has delivered extensive input to the legislators and will continue to do so until adoption of the final text at the end of this year.



## RELAUNCH OF THE RECFISH FORUM

Successful kick-off of the Forum on Recreational Fisheries and Aquatic Environment in the European Parliament.

The event took place in Strasbourg, in November 2019.

EFTTA was represented by Olivier Portrat (CEO) and Janet Doyle (General Manager).

EFTTA needs a numerous and broad membership base to secure, and gain more, political clout, which is essential to avert forcefully and effectively threats to the industry and recreational fishing.

In Europe our industry has one powerful voice which counts and have done so for more than 20 years. Join EFTTA to help EFTTA to secure a brighter future for our industry and recreational fishing.

Download the 2019/2020 Lobby Activities report on [www.eftta.com](http://www.eftta.com)