



The future of your business depends on the success of our lobbying work in the EU!

Promotion and protection of the tackle trade's interests:

Healthy fish stocks remain the most critical issue for the tackle trade

∞ Without fish there would be no anglers and no tackle trade. EFTTA informs decision makers in Brussels and all over Europe about the importance of healthy fish stocks and the socio and economic importance of sportfishing in Europe. EFTTA keeps decision makers informed and gives advice about drafted policies and legislation of importance to the aquatic environment and sportfishing. EFTTA fights for fair access to fishing spots and fish species for anglers. EFTTA pushes for EU fisheries policies and legislation to treat sportfishing on equal footing with commercial fishing.

The European tackle trade is worth over €2 billion

∞ Within the EU there are approximately 3,000 manufacturing & wholesale companies trading in sportfishing. 13,000 tackle shops, sports chains and mass distribution shops serve more than 25 million anglers for an estimated turnover of over €2 billion annually. Other businesses dependant on anglers' spend make the total socio-economic value at about €20 billion. A study published in 2017 (requested and funded by the European Parliament) concluded that marine recreational fisheries alone supports an estimated 99,000 full-time jobs in Europe.

Ecosystem-services is high on the political agenda

∞ Sportfishing is a healthy, sustainable activity which brings considerable economic activity to wherever there is water and fish. Unfortunately, the full value and development potential of sportfishing is not always considered when ecosystem service assessments are worked out for project planning and surveys. This can result in losses for sportfishing as well as for society, which in effect will not receive the best outcome from its natural resources.

Support EFTTA. We lobby for you.



EFTTA lobby policy

EFTTA continuously urges and lobbies:

- ✘ that the fisheries, environment and development policies recognize and consider the value and benefits of sportfishing.
- ✘ that legislation is not implemented in such a way that it unintentionally or unfairly damages sportfishing.
- ✘ that overfishing must stop.
- ✘ for abundant fish populations in healthy waters, which are of paramount importance for the future of sportfishing.
- ✘ for access to sportfishing in the so called Marine Protected Areas which in fact ought to be named more correctly 'Marine Conservation Areas' - wherever appropriate, and to provide areas open for sportfishing only.
- ✘ that Sportfishing becomes a much more integrated and important part of European fisheries policies. Together with the European Anglers Alliance (EAA), EFTTA lobbies on prioritized lobby projects. EFTTA regularly meets with the commission in Brussels together with EAA on various subjects.
- ✘ EFTTA and EAA provide the secretariat to the 'Forum on Recreational Fisheries and Aquatic Environment', which arranges three to four events annually within the European Parliament on legislation and topics of importance to sportfishing.
- ✘ EFTTA is working for conservation of the aquatic environment, alone and with EAA and other organizations.

EFTTA-Lobbying plan 2023/2024

- ✘ EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP): we are lobbying for years to be full part of the CFP. Although we are in a good position, the recent reform has just been postponed to the next legislative period from 2024 onwards. EFTTA stays behind this topic.
- ✘ Convince EU decision makers that recreational fishing should be recognised on an equal footing with commercial fisheries and aquaculture in the next CFP reform.
- ✘ Lobby that the ongoing revision of the EU's Fisheries Control Regulation will be beneficial to fish stocks and sportfishing.
- ✘ Call for and promote closed containment fish farming systems.
- ✘ Lobby that the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 will be a positive for sportfishing and biodiversity.
- ✘ Continue to engage proactively with the implementation of the Single Use Plastics Directive and the pending lead restriction proposal.
- ✘ Lobby that Brexit won't be a threat to the bass or other EU-UK shared stocks of sportfishing interest.
- ✘ Continue our work on cormorants with the EAA to follow up on the EU funded cormorant project CorMan, its stakeholders' platform and its European cormorant documentation centre. (This project went live in 2011 because of active lobbying from the angling community. It is one of the outcomes of the Kindermann Report adopted by the European Parliament in 2008. EFTTA delivered substantial input to this report).
- ✘ Lobby for an end to subsidies to small hydroelectric power stations, minimize negative effects from already existing power stations and safeguard waters and biodiversity from further hydropower expansion.
- ✘ Continue promotion of our hydropower campaign film, which so far has been viewed by more than 50,000 people on YouTube and other video channels.
- ✘ Promote the socio-economic value of sportfishing and make sure that the socio-economic side of sportfishing is not overlooked or excluded by fisheries policies, management and legislation.
- ✘ Lobby that a comprehensive pan-European sportfishing socio-economic study is conducted every five year.
- ✘ Watch closely the extremist animal activists who want fishing banned.
- ✘ Fight against any unfair recreational fishing regulations or licenses.
- ✘ Support invasive species policies and legislation, but demand changes if unnecessarily harmful to sportfishing.
- ✘ Investigate and push for a fee on angling related items to be reinvested into sportfishing.
- ✘ Continue running together with EAA relevant events at the European Parliament within the 'Forum on Recreational Fisheries and Aquatic Environment' to which EFTTA and EAA provide the secretariat, and arrange meetings chaired and attended by Members of the European Parliament and other invited official experts and stakeholders.
- ✘ Attend and give presentations at conferences and workshops and to deliver responses to consultations which are relevant for EFTTA's interests and lobby program.
- ✘ Increase our cooperation with related industries like the European Boating Industry (EBI).

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