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Presentation to the Vicenza Fishing Show

EU legislation – lead and plastics in fishing tackle

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European Parliament



European Council



European Commission

Pending EU lead restrictions sinkers and lures



- EFTTA has been involved with the work on this lead restrictions proposal since 2019.
(see the EFTTA website for more details)
- **March 2023:**
the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) delivered its proposal for lead restrictions to the European Commission: <https://echa.europa.eu/registry-of-restriction-intentions/-/dislist/details/0b0236e1840159e6>

Scroll down to:

Compiled RAC and SEAC opinion (and minority positions)



Final Opinion



Final Opinion appendix



RAC supplementary opinion

- **EFTTA has requested an exemption for dust shots** smaller or equal to 0.06 grams [size 14 to size 8] as there are no viable alternatives on the market.
 - ECHA did not agree. ECHA suggests **tungsten putty** as an alternative to dust shots.
- **EFTTA has requested that the lead content in certain alloys used in lures should be 3%** instead of ECHA's proposed 1%. (concerns only machined, not stamped products, which can be made by zero lead alloys).
- **EFTTA has requested one transition period of five years.**
ECHA suggests two transition periods for sinkers and lures: ≤ 50 g (three years) > 50 g (five years)
- **EFTTA supports both a sales ban as well as a use ban** (which eventually could be followed up by an "old lead collection scheme").
- EFTTA continues to lobby its positions until the legislation is finally adopted.
The European Anglers Alliance (EAA) has a position similar to the EFTTA position.



Next:



EFTTA delegation

- **The Commission is now working on a legislative proposal**
 - **End of February:** first meeting in REACH Committee (the Commission and Member State experts)
 - **April:** Reach Committee vote (maybe). If the vote is positive then the legislative proposal goes to Council and Parliament for scrutiny (3 months).
 - If neither the Council nor the Parliament react against, the legal act is adopted. The act will be published in the Official Journal soon after, with effect (presumably) 20 days later.

Single use plastics Directive ('SUP Directive')

- **Scope:**
- The directive applies to certain SUP products, products made from oxo-degradable plastic and fishing gear containing plastic. SUP products are wholly or partly made of plastic, and are typically intended to be used just once or for a short period of time before they are thrown away.
- **The SUP Directive (2019)** includes provisions for fishing gear and components of fishing gear containing plastic. Yes, you can rightly claim that fishing gear are not single use products, but it doesn't matter. The legislation explicitly concerns also non-single-use fishing gear.
- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes** "to ensure separate collection of waste fishing gear and to finance environmentally sound waste management of waste fishing gear, in particular recycling."

- **The EPR schemes are not harmonised**

Every EU Member State can have its own scheme. The EPR schemes shall be operational at the end of this year at the latest. Some Member States already have a scheme in place.

Sweden has opened a webpage in English about their scheme:

www.naturvardsverket.se/en/guidance/extended-producer-responsibility-epr/extended-producer-responsibility-for-fishing-gear/

NB! The Swedish scheme includes some non-plastics products not required by the SUP Directive.

- EFTTA has lobbied successfully that payment to the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme should not be decided based on volume but weight of the plastic products involved.
- EFTTA encourages its members to engage if the EPR scheme has not yet been adopted in their country. Otherwise, you may have to pay more than what is fair.

More details:

EFTTA's website: <https://www.eftta.com/news/article/fishing-gear-containing-plastic>

Summary of the SUP Directive: <https://shorturl.at/ehpB0>

The SUP Directive: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32019L0904>