

**Question for written answer E-001955/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Socio-economic importance of recreational fishing in inland waters

Recreational freshwater fishing presents an important source of direct and indirect income for rural communities, as well as a means of revenue diversification. The tourism surrounding this activity ensures the sustainability and good condition of fish stocks, while providing social and health benefits.

Unfortunately, there is currently no official data on the economic importance of this sector at EU level, its environmental impact or the number of full-time jobs dependent on this activity. It seems, however, that this sector generates revenues at EU level in the order of EUR 15-20 billion per year.

1. Does the Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) intend to set up an instrument to measure the financial, social and environmental impact of recreational freshwater fishing?
2. What strategy does the Commission intend to launch in order to develop the underexploited potential of recreational fishing and freshwater angling tourism to attract visitors all year round, as a source of rural development and sustainable tourism?

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