

**Question for written answer E-001141/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Sofie Eriksson (S&D)

Subject: Accessible and proportionate reporting requirements for recreational fisheries under Article 55 of the Fisheries Control Regulation

The Commission began the gradual roll-out of the RecFishing mobile application on 9 January 2026. During the initial testing phase, stakeholders from the recreational fishing community highlighted several concerns related to the usability and practical implementation of the system, particularly regarding accessibility and enforceability. As reporting currently depends mainly on digital tools, anglers who lack suitable digital devices or sufficient digital skills may face difficulties fulfilling the obligation.

The rules set out that recreational catches must be reported on a daily basis rather than immediately after each catch. This timing could create practical issues during inspections, as fishers may still be in full compliance even if catches have not yet been reported at the moment an inspection takes place.

1. Does the Commission plan to examine the possibility of introducing an analogue reporting option in order to guarantee fair and proportionate reporting requirements for all recreational fishers, including those who are digitally excluded?
2. Can the Commission confirm whether the RecFishing application will be used solely for the data-collection purposes set out in Article 55 of the Regulation, and not as a tool for additional enforcement measures?
3. Can the Commission provide an update on the current operational status of the RecFishing application following the postponement of its launch, and explain how future developments will be communicated to stakeholders?

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