

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001141/26
to the Commission
Sofie Eriksson (S&D)
(18 March 2026)**

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?

Submitted: 18.3.2026

**Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(13 May 2026)**

To facilitate implementation of the reporting obligations for recreational fisheries, and in line with Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 (the Control Regulation), as amended by Regulation (EU) 2023/2842⁽¹⁾, the Commission at the request of 13 Member States developed the digital system RecFishing.

While the regulation requires daily reporting for certain species, Member States determine how the daily requirement is implemented and enforced nationally, including whether reporting is immediate or within 24 hours.

The RecFishing mobile app accommodates these choices and allows reporting in line with Art. 55 of the Control Regulation, including offline, with data transmitted once connectivity is restored.

While the Commission provides an electronic reporting system, it is the responsibility of Member States to define national rules on data collection and ensure the necessary enforcement, taking into account proportionality.

During its meeting of 15 April 2026, the Working Group on Recreational Fisheries (WGRF) addressed possible challenges of a digital divide and discussed how to support fishers without mobile phone.

The Commission develops, operates and maintains the RecFishing system to support data collection under Art. 55 of the Control Regulation.

The current focus is to deploy core functionalities that can improve usability and acceptance, which will result in better data. It is a key objective of the Commission and Member States to develop tools to improve data quality to support future analysis.

Finally, the roll-out of RecFishing was not postponed. As this is normal practice for large IT systems, it was launched progressively in the concerned Member States, following a pre-agreed schedule. Developments are discussed and agreed with Member States within the WGRF.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2842/oj/eng>.