

Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries

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EIFAC CODE OF PRACTICE FOR RECREATIONAL FISHERIES



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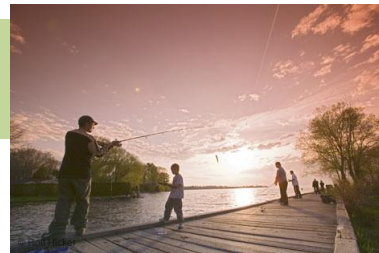
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Fisheries**



Rationale

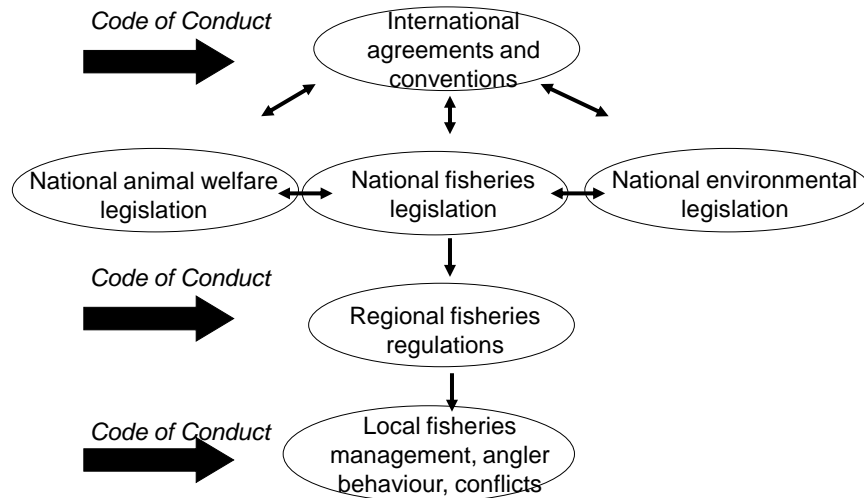


- Recreational fishing the most important user of most inland fish stocks in industrialized countries (Arlinghaus et al. 2002, Fish Fish.)
- Largely overlooked in international policy on fisheries and sustainable fisheries management
- Diversity in fisheries types but similar rights and plight

⇒ A Global Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries needed that complements the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (FAO 1995)

Role of a Code of Conduct/Practice

Cowx & Arlinghaus, 2008, In: Aas et al. (eds), Blackwell Publ.



General Objectives

Cowx & Arlinghaus, 2008, In: Aas et al. (eds), Blackwell Publ.

- increased awareness of recreational fisheries in the policy arena;
- increased acceptance of the sector as a major player in the world's fisheries;
- improved image of recreational fisheries within society by promoting ethically appropriate behavior
- improved management and development of recreational fisheries

⇒ promotion of environmentally and socially responsible behaviour of recreational fishers and sustainable management



Structure: 13 Articles



1: Nature & Scope



2: Objectives



3: Implement. + Upd.



4: General Principles



5: Env. Stewardship



6: Instit. Framework



7: Compliance, Enforc.



8: Fishing Practice



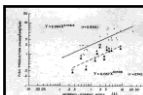
9: Fish Welfare



10: Stakeholder Inter.



11: Mgmt.

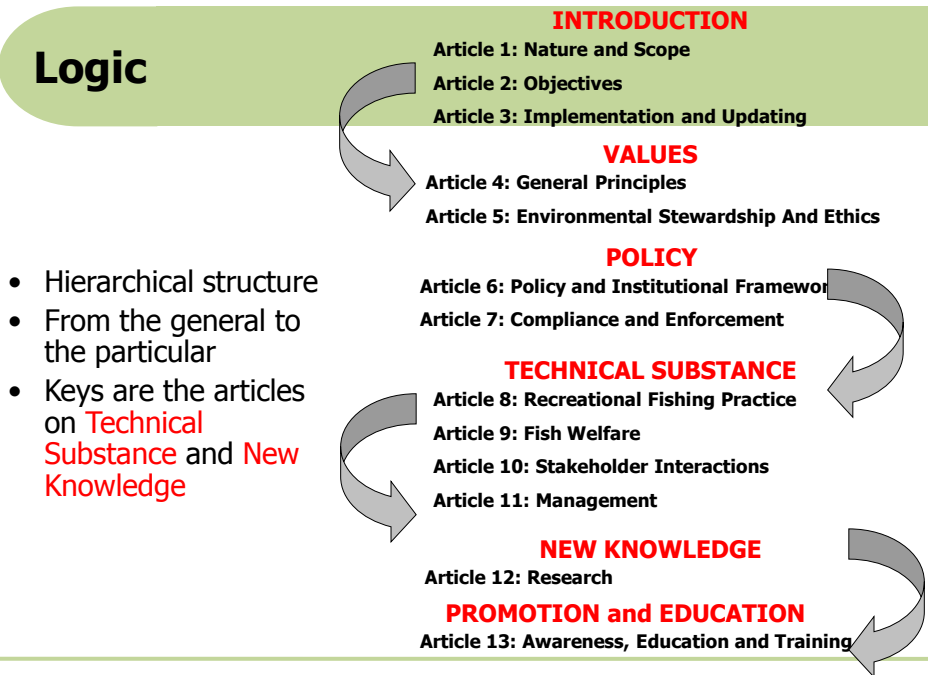


12: Research



13: Aware., Educ.

Logic



Articles 1-3: Introduction



- Voluntary document, i.e. not legally binding
- EIFAC region, but worded for universal applicability
- Objectives
 - To provide generic principles of best practice and management principles
 - To serve as a guiding instrument of reference for constructive dialogue
 - To promote international exchange of knowledge and experiences on recreational fisheries
- Emphasizes need to promote the CoP among international and national policy makers, fisheries stakeholders and other stakeholders of aquatic ecosystems

Articles 4 and 5: Values



- To protect, promote and encourage access to recreational fishing
 - To ensure wise and sustainable use, conservation and management of recreational fisheries
 - To avoid irreversible, costly or slowly reversible changes to aquatic biodiversity
 - To avoid conflicts with commercial fisheries and other users of aquatic ecosystems
 - To raise awareness that recreational fisheries can impact on fish stocks and aquatic ecosystems and encourage actions to minimize such impacts through best practice
 - **Environmental stewardship: moral obligation to care for aquatic environments and the actions undertaken to provide that care**
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Articles 6 and 7: Policy



- Governments, administrations and decision-makers should
 - establish policy and regulatory frameworks for the management of recreational fisheries
 - provide resources and mechanisms for enforcement of rules and regulations
 - ensure that the recreational fisheries sector is involved in other activities related to aquatic ecosystem management, conservation and planning
 - provide the mechanisms to settle conflicts
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Logic

INTRODUCTION

Article 1: Nature and Scope

Article 2: Objectives

Article 3: Implementation and Updating

VALUES

Article 4: General Principles

Article 5: Environmental Stewardship And Ethics

POLICY

Article 6: Policy and Institutional Framework

Article 7: Compliance and Enforcement

TECHNICAL SUBSTANCE

Article 8: Recreational Fishing Practice

Article 9: Fish Welfare

Article 10: Stakeholder Interactions

Article 11: Management

NEW KNOWLEDGE

Article 12: Research

PROMOTION and EDUCATION

Article 13: Awareness, Education and Training

- Hierarchical structure
- From the general to the particular
- Keys are the articles on **Technical Substance** and **New Knowledge**

Article 8: Recreational Fishing Practices



8: Fishing Pract.

- Detailed provisions related to
 - Safety
 - Fish (e.g. not take more than needed, not leave gear unattended)
 - Litter (e.g. do not litter and remove litter from others)
 - Environment (e.g. not illegally stock or transfer live fish, avoid damage to vegetation, avoid disturbance of waterfowl, minimize use of lead weights)

Article 9: Fish Welfare



- Focuses on what happens on the individual fish
 - No reference to contentious issues such as pain and suffering (function-based definition of fish welfare)
 - Provisions and guidelines related to
 - Killing process
 - General angling practice (use of gear, handling)
 - Live baitfish
 - Retention and weighing of fish (e.g. tournaments)
 - Any form of catch-and-release
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Article 10: Stakeholder Interactions



- Principles
 - Understand that some human activities have priority over recreational fishing
 - Respect the values and perspectives of other stakeholders
 - Respect the rights of land owners
 - Respect other people's privacy at the fishing site
 - Work cooperatively to resolve conflicts
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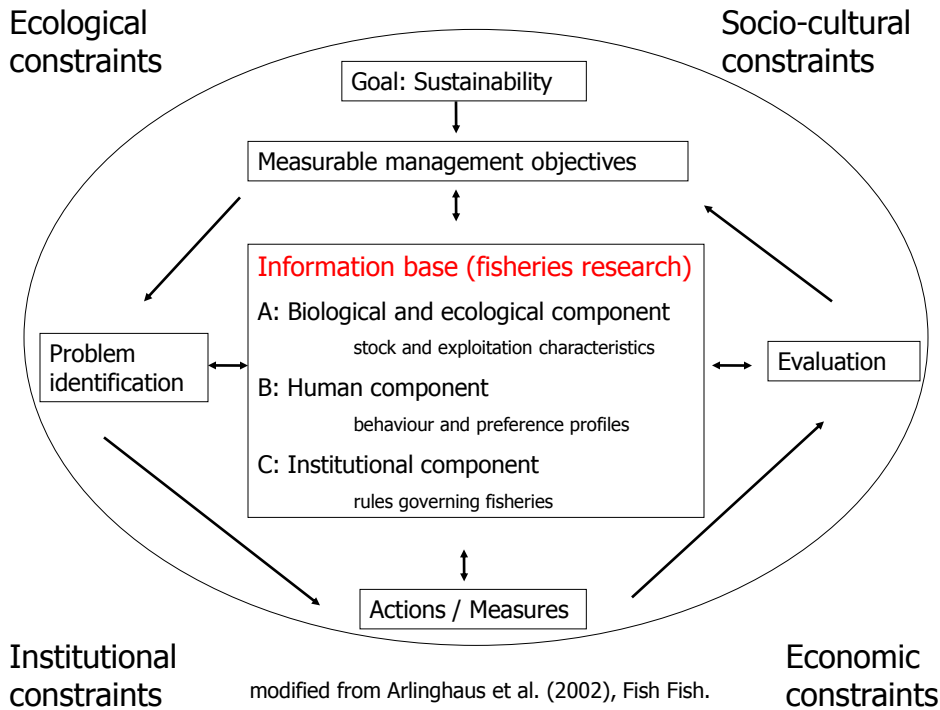
Article 11: Management



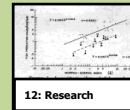
- Emphasizes basic principles such as
 - Ecosystem approach
 - Precautionary approach
 - Structured management process by identification of goals and measurable objectives
 - Adaptive management through monitoring and evaluation of actions
 - Decisions must be based on the best available science
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Common Management Strategies

1. Management of the **Fishery**, e.g. by harvest regulations and effort limitations (input and output controls)
 2. Management of the **Fish Stocks**, e.g. by stocking and introductions, culling of unwanted species
 3. Management of the **Environment**, e.g. habitat enhancement
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Article 12: Research



- Highlights importance of research for sustainable recreational fisheries management
- Highlights multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary nature of recreational fisheries research, specifically the need to integrate natural and social sciences
- Emphasizes the need for cooperation between researchers and local stakeholders, e.g. to identify research questions
- Emphasizes the need for standardised monitoring programmes of fish AND fisher dynamics to enable timely and well-grounded management responses

Article 13: Awareness, Education and Training



- To disseminate new information, policies and regulations to the fishing public
 - To communicate recent advances in recreational fisheries science objectively
 - To invest funds for education and outreach programs
 - To promote awareness of the CoP internationally
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Summary and Relevance to GFCM

- Framework that describes minimum standard of environmentally friendly, ethically permissible and, depending on local situations, socially acceptable recreational fishing
 - Primarily useful for policy makers, NGOs, recreational fishing industry, local angling clubs, fisheries managers and scientists as a communication tool for best practices
 - Raise awareness of the importance of recreational fishing as part of the Mediterranean fisheries
 - To be viable, it must be adopted by the international community and rigorously applied nationally and regionally
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