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**European
Anglers Alliance**

Digitalisation of Recreational fishing

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Recreational Fishing in the EU

- Recreational fishing is a large and growing sector in the EU. Some 10 million Europeans go fishing at sea every year as recreation with an economic impact of about 10.5 billion euro, supporting almost 100,000 jobs.



Why digitalisation of recreational fishing?

- Nobody knows exactly who or how many people angling in EU marine waters.
- Nobody knows how, where and when anglers catch how many fish.
- Fishing licenses, permits and fishing taxes are a broad minefield of local regulations.
- To this day, there is basically no comprehensive data collection - anglers get regulated based on estimates, surveys or modeled data



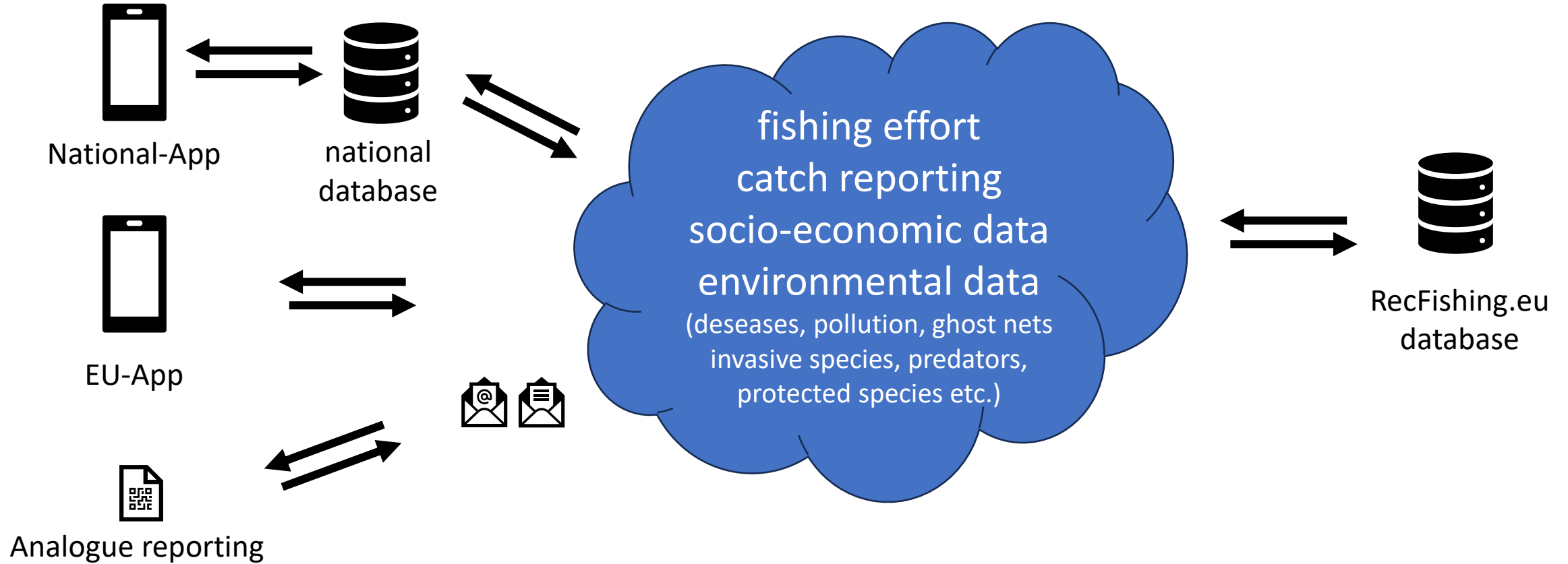
Opportunity: 10 Million eyes and ears

- With digitalisation anglers could become one of the **prime monitoring source of data** for **aquatic ecosystems and socio-economic data**
- Anglers are on the water all year round and at almost all times of day
- Reporting data can strengthen participation and environmental stewardship
- It requires an ambitious approach to the project to be able to deliver on these potential benefits





How to collect better data



Future benefit of better data

- Get a better understanding of angler behaviour, motivation and their socio-economic importance
- More precise data collection: get rid of costly surveys and uncertain modelling
- Possibility to establish new fishing management measures (monthly, yearly or dynamic bag-limits)
- Get more real time insights in management measures so unintended consequences are understood quicker and don't last for years



Necessary prerequisites

- We need a **clear definition and segmentation** of recreational fishing on EU-Level
 - Angling (rod and line), spear fishing, gillnets, pots and traps, longlines
- Cutting from the CFP in force: "The CFP shall ensure that fishing and aquaculture activities are environmentally sustainable in the long-term and are managed in a way that is consistent with the objectives of achieving economic, social and employment benefits,...", however
- Recreational fishing gets regulated, monitored and is forced to collect data under the CFP, with no obligation to take into account recreational sea fishing's 10.5 billion euro economic impact or the 100,000 jobs supported
- In effect, recreational fishing is not managed optimally to the detriment of people, societies and the environment
- Therefore, **EAA demands equal recognition and treatment of recreational fishing within the framework of the CFP** as enjoyed by commercial fisheries and aquaculture

Risks

- A pure catch reporting App will not be **supported and promoted by EAA.**
- Current plans for registration of recreational fishers are insufficient
 - Registration only for limited number of species
 - Uncertain situation and control regulation for unwanted by-catches
 - No incentives or added-value for registration and reporting
 - Easy to cheat and hard to control – this is highly likely to result in few reports and bad quality of data
 - Analogue reporting is not considered



Thank you!

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