

WG 4 – RECREATIONAL FISHING



MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU RECREATIONAL CATCH REPORTING SYSTEM IN MEDAC COUNTRIES



Co-founded by the
European Union

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Where does the mandatory declaration of MRF capture come from?

If The Control Regulation (EU 2323/2842) stipulates that coastal Member States must:

- From 10/01/2026:
 - a) Ensure that natural persons participating in MRF are registered.
 - b) Have an electronic system in place for the registration and notification of catches of species/stocks with quotas and/or catch limits. Catch data must be reported daily.
- From 1/01/2030:
 - a) For species/stocks for which the Union establishes fishing opportunities, covered by the MPA, subject to the LO, and which have a high impact on the F (scientific opinion of the CTEP, ICES, etc.).

What is the purpose of this measure?

According to the EU:

The main objective of these new reporting measures is to improve knowledge, transparency, and consistency in how recreational fishing is reported and managed across the EU.

Recreational fishing involves millions of citizens and plays an important social and cultural role in coastal and maritime communities. By improving the availability and quality of data, these measures will help better reflect the value and scale of this activity at EU level.

Collecting information on recreational fisheries is essential for understanding overall fishing activity. These new insights will support informed, evidence-based decision-making and help ensure the sustainable use and management of shared marine resources.

In the long-term, more accurate and reliable data will support the sustainability of fish stocks, which is essential for coastal communities and for the fisheries sector, whose livelihoods and competitiveness depend on healthy marine ecosystems.

IN SUMMARY

These measures aim to improve transparency and data for the sustainable management of fisheries resources in the EU.

How will these statements be made?

The EU proposed the creation of a single app that countries could adopt upon request.

Of the 22 EU coastal states, 13 joined the use of this app; the remaining 9 decided to create their own.

- EU App (RecFishing): Belgium, **Cyprus**, Denmark, **France**, Germany, Ireland, **Italy**, **Malta**, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden.
- Country-specific Apps: Bulgaria, **Croatia**, **Estonia**, Finland, **Greece**, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia, **Spain**.

Current situation in MEDAC countries (1/2)

The EU's "RecFishing" app is being rolled out in stages in these countries:



* Data source: DG MARE

Current situation in MEDAC countries (2/2)

Countries developing their own applications:




Spain

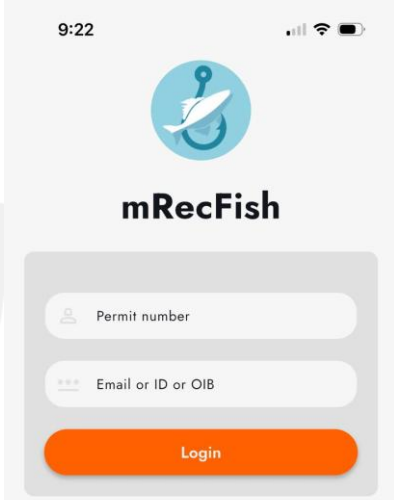


“PescaREC” available, operational and mandatory from 04/02/2026 *

PescaREC versión 1.1.0

Croatia



“mRecFish” available and operational, mandatory from 18/02/2026 *


1.1.5




Greece



App available and operational, mandatory from 04/02/2026 *



Slovenia

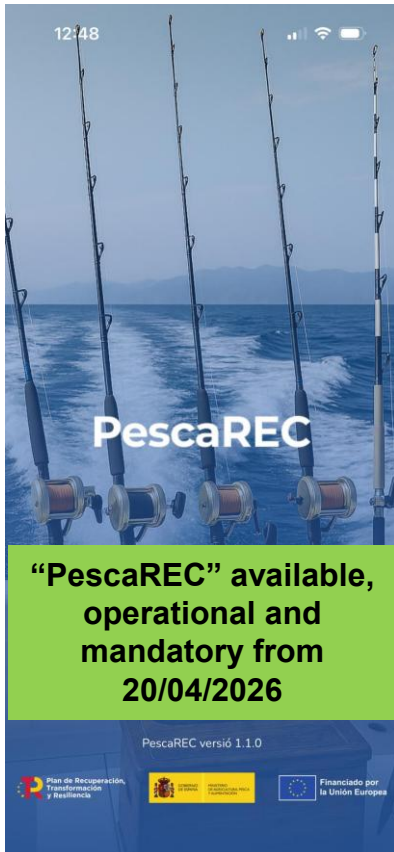


App available and operational, mandatory from 04/02/2026 *

Current situation in MEDAC: The Spanish case (1/2)



Spain



Although the application should be ready on February 4 (information from DG MARE), **“Real Decreto 214/2026”**, which makes the obligation to use the APP effective for recreational fishermen in Spain, was not published in the BOE until **19/04/2026**.



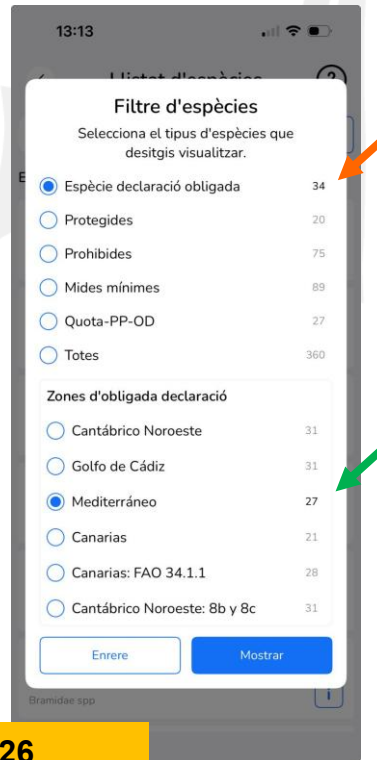
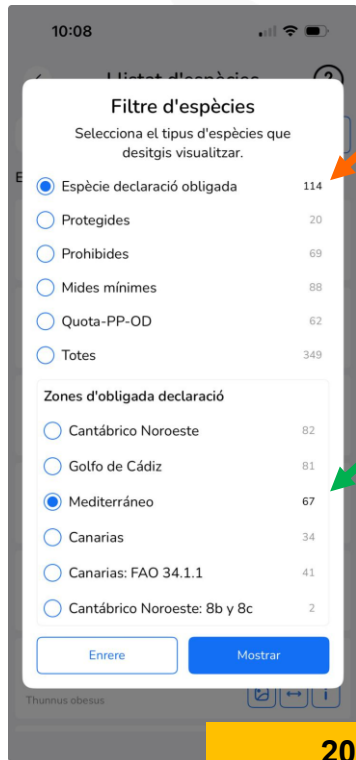
LEGISLACIÓN CONSOLIDADA

Real Decreto 214/2026, de 18 de marzo, por el que se regula la presentación de solicitudes, declaraciones y comunicaciones a través de medios electrónicos en las reservas marinas de interés pesquero y para la pesca de recreo.

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Current situation in MEDAC: The Spanish case (2/2)

Since then, the app has been **functioning correctly** and is currently undergoing bug correction. On April 20th, it began the day with a list of 114 Mandatory Declaration(MD) species (67 for the Mediterranean) and ended the day with 34 notifiable species (27 for the Mediterranean). As of April 13, 2026, there are 34 MD species and 24 for the Mediterranean.



Continuous improvement



What do we want to do in MEDAC WG4?

We want to monitor the implementation of this obligation in MEDAC countries by:

- *Gathering information on the different approaches taken by each country based on its autonomy in implementation.*
- *Collecting any problems that arise during the process.*
- *To do this, **we will conduct a survey among MEDAC members** requesting information.*

The goal of WG4 in this matter would be the production of an advisory opinion to DG MARE on this process.



Thank you for your
attention

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