

Information about the processing and protection of your personal data in the RecFishing App

Updated 1 July 2026

New rules on registration and reporting for recreational fishermen

To improve knowledge of marine fish stocks, the EU is introducing new rules requiring certain recreational fishermen to register and report catches. The rules must be introduced into Irish law before they can be applied in Ireland.

Why are the changes being made?

The aim of the revision of the EU's fisheries control system is to ensure sustainable fisheries with viable stocks, reduced environmental impact and to create a level playing field within the EU. The new regulation will lead to fairer, more uniform and more effective fisheries control with harmonised management, of infringements and sanctions, between Member States. The aim is also to counteract the formation of marine litter, increase traceability and the possibility of demanding accountability, counteract illegal fishing and create common rules for fishing with passive gear in recreational fishing.

The aim is modern and clear fisheries control that is adapted to today's needs and equal for all concerned.

New EU-wide fisheries control system: how recreational fishing in the sea will be affected.

If you engage in recreational fishing or fishing tourism in the sea, you will be affected by the fact that the EU has revised its system for fisheries control. New requirements will be introduced that mean that recreational fishermen must be registered and report catches of certain species. New requirements are also introduced for the labelling of, among other things, nets, traps, cages and traps used for recreational fishing in the sea.

Fishing rules for recreational fishing by the EU

- Article 55 of Control Regulation (EC) N 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 on the control of recreational fisheries
- Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 November 2023
- Commission implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/274 of 12 February 2025

“RecFishing” electronic system

The European Commission has developed the "RecFishing" electronic system, which consists of a Fisher's mobile App (named "RecFishing" in the App stores) and a Web App that displays information available in the RecFishing central server. Recreational fishers will therefore be

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obliged to electronically report, on a daily basis, their catches of certain species, stocks or groups of stocks that are subject to Union conservation measures.

Extended data collection

The new EU rules require increased data collection from recreational fisheries. Every year, Ireland will collect data on several fish stocks. The aim is to gain better knowledge about how extensive recreational fishing is and what impact it has. The data collection will be carried out using a statistical method approved by the European Commission.

Reporting obligations, insofar as recreational sea angling in Irish waters is concerned, are limited to fish species that are subject to existing EU conservation measures such as catch and release, bag limits, seasonal controls, etc.

Who will be responsible in Ireland?

In the Dáil Éireann Debate [EU Regulations – Wednesday, 18 Mar 2026 – Parliamentary Questions \(34th Dáil\) – Houses of the Oireachtas](#) was answered by the Minister of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE) that Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) will be the competent authority responsible for implementing Article 55 measures for the EU's new rules on registration and catch reporting for recreational fishermen. The initial phase of implementation will focus on education, guidance and awareness-building to support sea anglers in understanding and complying with the new measures.

Work is underway to review Irish fisheries legislation incorporating these EU regulations, currently being drafted by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Marine (DAFM).

Until the Oireachtas has approved legislation and the rules are more clearly established, neither IFI nor any other authority will require recreational fishermen to register and report their fishing catches. IFI will provide more information as soon as it is available.

Am I covered by the new EU rules for recreational fishing?

When Ireland supplementary provisions are in place in the Fisheries Act, you who catch named marine fish species must register on the RecFishing App and report your catches.

How do I sign up and report my catch?

There is no requirement to register or report your catch on the RecFishing App at this point in time.

The App went live in January 2026 and is being made available to Member States on a phased basis, according to operational readiness and national timelines. It is expected that the App will be rolled out in Ireland this year.

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Privacy

Why is a privacy statement necessary?

The privacy statement below is being updated in conjunction with the roll out of the RecFishing App in Ireland including details on how your personal data is collected, used and protected in accordance with article 13 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation (EU) 2016/679).

Why and how do we process your personal data?

The processing of personal data is necessary to grant access to the “RecFishing” electronic system. A limited set of personal data of recreational fisheries will be collected to authenticate users, manage access rights and operate the system.

Through the Fisher’s mobile App, recreational sea fishers will be able to register and submit their catch data to Ireland, their Member State. The mobile App will ask the users to identify via EU Login, after that they will be able to submit their daily catches to the RecFishing central server via the mobile App.

What do we use your personal data for?

The data submitted by the fishers engaged in recreational fisheries in Ireland will be collected via the mobile App and displayed in the respective Member State Workspace in IFI’s Web App. The access and the further use of these data for the purposes of fulfilling its obligations to control recreational fisheries will be covered in the privacy statement in the RecFishing mobile App.

Your personal data will not be used for an automated decision-making including profiling.

On what legal grounds do we process your personal data?

We process your personal data, in line with Article 5(1)(b) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 because processing is necessary for the compliance with a legal obligation to which the controller is subject.

The basis for the processing referred to has been laid down in the following Union law: Article 55 of the Control Regulation (EC) 1224/2009 as revised by Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 on recreational fisheries in connection with Articles 2 and 3 of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/274.

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Which personal data do we collect and further process?

A limited set of personal data including first name, last name, mobile number and email address will be collected to authenticate users, manage access rights and operate the system.

How long do we keep your personal data?

For the data retention please refer to the privacy statement available in the mobile App.

How do we protect and safeguard your personal data?

To protect your personal data, technical and organisational measures for any processing operations will be put in place and detailed in this privacy statement.

Information security measures include secure hosting, data encryption in transit and at rest, controlled access to systems, authentication and authorisation via EU Login and EU Access, logging and monitoring, and safeguards against unauthorised access, data loss or alteration.

Organisational measures include strict role-based access, limitation of access to authorised personnel only, and access restricted to what is necessary to perform defined tasks.

Who has access to your personal data and to whom is it disclosed?

Access to personal data in the RecFishing electronic system is strictly limited to authorized IFI staff and authorised technical support staff responsible for carrying out this processing operation.

What are your rights and how can you exercise them?

Personal data of recreational fishers stored and processed within Member State Workspace are processed under the responsibility of IFI. For such data, data subjects can exercise their rights directly with IFI, acting as data controller, by contacting the Data Protection Officer at dpo@fisheriesireland.ie. The right to access your personal data and to rectify them in case your personal data are inaccurate or incomplete. Where applicable, you may also have the right to request erasure of your personal data, to restrict the processing of your personal data, to object to the processing, and the right to data portability.

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Contact information

If you would like to exercise your rights, or if you have comments, questions or concerns, or if you would like to submit a complaint regarding the collection and use of your personal data, please feel free to contact IFI, the Data Controller:

- 3044 Lake Drive, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin - D24 CK66
- info@fisheriesireland.ie
- Data Protection Officer – dpo@fisheriesireland.ie

If you are unhappy with how we handle your data, you may contact:

Data Protection Commission (Ireland)

Website: <https://www.dataprotection.ie>