



CATCH – Sustainable Coastal Angling Tourism in the South Baltic Sea Region

University of Rostock, EUCC - Coastal Union Germany, Green Federation „GAJA”, Nida Culture and Tourism Information Centre "Agila,, Klaipėda University, Municipality of Vordingborg

COASTAL ANGLING IN THE BSR – CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES

Coastal angling tourism offers a unique development chance for the Baltic Sea Region, especially for less developed coastal regions. It is a new touristic trend and offers diversification of coastal tourism with promising market opportunities. Based on the increasing sales of coastal tourist fishing licenses in the region within the last years it is obvious that angling tourism has a great potential. Significant spill-over effects (accommodation industry, gastronomy, etc.) can be expected and further synergies, e.g. combined offers with the health tourism sector or professional fisherman who make use of tourists and establish an additional financial pillar. But angling tourism is still a niche market based on very local initiatives and angler-to-angler-communication. To change this, it is indispensable to cooperate across borders and jointly promote coastal angling and its economic potentials. In this regard, the CATCH (**Coastal Angling Tourism - a development chance for the South Baltic Region**) project, financed under the INTERREG South Baltic Programme, has been launched to increase the capability of coastal communities to establish sustainable angling tourism, deliver improved measures for touristic providers and to combine all new knowledge in an innovative information and knowledge platform on coastal angling tourism.



SUSTAINABLE ANGLING TOURISM

The project CATCH will emphasize the importance of recreational angling within the resource-efficient blue growth in the South Baltic, increase the capability of coastal communities to establish **sustainable angling tourism**, deliver improved measures for touristic providers and will combine all new knowledge in an innovative information and knowledge platform on coastal angling tourism. The platform provides information for angling tourists and inhabitants necessary for planning, booking and performing an angling trip to unique coastal sites. By the exchange of experiences between coastal stakeholder groups best-practice approaches will show further positive effects to regional development, e.g. linkages to further economic branches (traditional coastal fishery, health tourism, local entrepreneurs). The CATCH project is implemented by the international consortium, composed of the following institutions: University of Rostock (Lead Partner), EUCC - Coastal Union Germany, Green Federation „GAJA”, Nida Culture and Tourism Information Centre "Agila,, Klaipėda University, Municipality of Vordingborg.

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

Sustainable use of the BSR as a common, cross-border natural resource for recreational angling tourism requires a set of cross-border cooperation. Angling areas do not stop at national borders and therefore the coordination and cooperation of relevant regional stakeholders should be promoted across borders. Due to a lack of assets, it is a challenge for individual regions around the Baltic Sea to profile as angling hotspots for tourists and provide the necessary infrastructure. Guidelines and measures regarding angling in coastal waters can only be effective if they are implemented and monitored jointly. Sustainable practices, which can be developed and/or adapted from sites where they are already working well, can be promoted by rules and regulations but also by habits, trends and ethics.

