



CONFEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE LA PÊCHE SPORTIVE

YOUTH COMMISSION REPORT 2025

1. Overview

- a. The Commission had deliberations on the participation and sustainability of youth in the angling sport.
- b. After due research, it was found that the participation of youth in angling, whether it be competitively or recreationally it is being influenced by the same factors.
- c. The member Federation's focus is mainly on competitive participation, but the recreational participation in angling has millions of participants without any structural drive or leadership.

2. Founding of research

- a. Data continues to underscore the critical importance of introducing fishing at a young age, as 87 percent of current fishing participants fished before the age of 12.
- b. Retaining newcomers will be an integral part of fishing's continued success. New anglers are younger, more diverse, and highly socially connected.
- c. The continued decline in participant numbers and the participation rate among ages 6 to 12 represents a disappointing trend. Fishing's national participation rate among children ages 6 to 12 dipped 2 percentage points in 2023. Fishing doesn't connect with everyone. The leading reasons for stopping fishing in 2023 included:
 - i. Lack of time
 - ii. Physical limitations of venues
 - iii. Lost interest
 - iv. Too far to travel
 - v. Didn't catch anything
- d. In 2023, first-time anglers said their top reasons to start fishing included:
 - i. Spend time with family
 - ii. Experience excitement/adventure
 - iii. A friend or relative took me
 - iv. Wanted to try out a new hobby
 - v. Fished as a child and wanted to try again
 - vi. Wanted to try catching my own food
 - vii. To disconnect from electronics

viii. Wanted to take my children fishing

3. Way forward

- a. As the research demonstrates the critical importance of introducing fishing at a young age, as 87 percent of current fishing participants fished as a child. 62 percent of anglers fondly remember -shing as a child, and 24 percent sought to recapture that positive experience through fishing.
- b. The CIPS Youth Commission considered this and decided we should start a global initiative to get the youth to participate in angling in a more recreational way instead of focusing on the traditional fishing championship participation structure.
- c. The Commission developed a concept and a proposal to host a global or worldwide fishing competition. The proposal was presented to the CIPS Presidium, and in principle approved and supported. The initiative was referred to the CIPS Assembly 2026 for consideration.

4. Conclusion

- a. The Youth Commission will be presenting the proposal to the CIPS Assembly for consideration, to get input, and to obtain approval for the initiative.
- b. The Commission believes that if we can attract the youth to participate more recreationally, it would stimulate participation in fishing, but also make it easier for the youth to move over to the more competitive angling structure of our member Nation's Federations.
- c. We trust that this initiative would contribute to the expansion of youth participation in the sport of fishing world wide.



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