Mesh Size Annexes
What are the issues?

- Council proposes reintroduction of catch composition rules
- Catch composition criticized by sector since introduction
- Obliged fishermen to discard in order to comply with mesh size rules
- Examples shown mean that >>50% of catch could be cod caught with small mesh
- Potentially for serious deterioration from current standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Codend</th>
<th>Mesh Size</th>
<th>Geographical Areas</th>
<th>Conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At least 120mm</td>
<td>Whole area</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At least 100mm</td>
<td>ICES sub-area</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At least 140mm</td>
<td>Whole area</td>
<td>Directed fishing for hake, megrim and anglerfish (combined 50%), or whiting, mackerel and species not covered by catch limits (combined 50%). A square mesh panel of 120mm shall be fitted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At least 80mm</td>
<td>ICES sub-area VII</td>
<td>Directed fishing for sole (15%) using otter trawls or species not covered by catch-limits (50%). A square mesh panel of at least 80mm shall be fitted.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At least 80mm</td>
<td>Whole area</td>
<td>Directed fishing for <em>Nephrops norvegicus</em> (30%) or species not covered by catch limits. A square mesh panel of at least 120mm or sorting grid with a maximum bar spacing of 35mm or equivalent selectivity device shall be fitted.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At least 80mm</td>
<td>ICES divisions VIIa, b, d, e, f, g, h, and j</td>
<td>Directed fishing for sole (15%) with beam trawls. A panel with a minimum mesh size of at least 180mm fitted in the upper half of the anterior part of the net shall be fitted.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At least 80mm</td>
<td>ICES divisions VIId and VIIe</td>
<td>Directed fishing of whiting, mackerel and species not covered by catch limits (combined 50%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What's the alternative?

• Provide a “by-catch” allowance for smaller mesh fisheries
• Principle: for the use of smaller mesh sizes (e.g. 80mm); provide a by-catch allowance comprised of species targeted with larger mesh sizes e.g. cod, haddock, hake and saithe (120mm)
• If by-catch limit is exceeded then larger mesh size (e.g. 120mm) applies or the use of alternative techniques with similar selectivity
• Views of the AC welcome!
Selectivity Performance Indicators
Background

• Central element to COM proposal: “The potential for a shift away from complex prescriptive rules towards a results-based management approach”

• 5% target in COM proposal rejected

• Scientifically robust alternative sought by Council and Parliament

Finding a solution is crucial to:

(i) quantify the effectiveness of the technical measures regulation and;

(ii) permit the possibility to move away from a prescriptive towards a results-based approach and;

(iii) provide the legal basis by providing a common objective across sea basins, considered as an essential element of the proposal.
State of play – alternative options

• Commission considers EU-wide goals as essential elements of the proposal
• Alternative proposal for a “selectivity performance indicator (SPI)”
• Based on the principle that there is an optimal harvest length
• Tell us "where we are now" and "where we would like to be"
• SPI provides a “yardstick” to measure direction
• Ensure that regionalisation is working as planned without Brussels micro-management of technical measures.
State of play - Implications

• SPI used to set out aspirational goals using EU-wide common framework (legally important!)
• SPI only for key indicator stocks used monitor changes in main fisheries over time
• There is no fixed time objective – simply used as a metric thereby enabling a results based approach
Next Steps

• European Parliament seeking opinion from AC’s on:
  • Rules for mesh sizes and;
  • Selectivity Performance Indicators

• Input will be critical for later discussions

• Any specific questions Norman.GRAHAM@ec.europa.eu

• Thank you for your time!