




Implementing and controlling the pelagic landing obligation

- Focus Group

Sean O'Donoghue
Chairman Working Group II

3 November 2016, Brussels

Agenda

09:30	Arrival and welcome of the participants
09:45	Introduction by the chairman
10:00	Follow-up on action items
10:30	EFCA presentation on gramma sizes
10:45	Coffee break
11:00	PELAC control recommendations
11:30	Discussions on potential solutions
12:00	Interactions with the regional groups on the PELAC recommendations
12:30	Conclusions and way forward
12:50	AOB

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Follow-up on action items

- Add the removal of upper mesh size to the list of potential solutions (chairman, secretariat)
 - Include in technical measures focus group
- Explore footnotes in the TAC and Quota Regulation, quota swaps and inter-species flexibility to cover bycatch of demersal species in pelagic fisheries (Pelagic AC)
 - Will be addressed later today
- Send the Scheveningen Group's document on inter-species flexibility to the Pelagic AC (Björn Åsgård) ✓

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Follow-up on action items

- Raise discard chutes with CEGs and try to find an agreement (Pelagic AC)
 - Will be addressed later today (Gerard van Balsfoort)
- Discuss de minimis approach with MS (Pelagic AC)
 - Will be addressed later today
- Enable implementation of Swedish saithe grid through joint recommendation or pilot project (Pelagic AC, Swedish MS)
 - Final project presentation will be given at PELAC February meeting
 - Include in focus group on technical measures

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Follow-up on action items

- Request a scientific review of the mackerel box (Pelagic AC)
 - ICES provided a response to the Government of the United Kingdom on the utility of the Western Mackerel Box in 2002 and concluded it should remain in place
 - STECF recommended in 2007 that a further evaluation using up-to-date fishery and survey data should be carried out by ICES to determine if the current Mackerel Box arrangement remains appropriate for conservation of the stock.
 - CEFAS report confirmed the appropriateness. Date ?
- Consider possibility to get a de minimis exemption for damaged fish (Pelagic AC)
 - Will be addressed later today (Gerard van Balsfoort)

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Follow-up on action items

- Carry out a pilot project on onboard processing plants (pelagic industry, MS)
 - Will be dealt with by focus group on technical measures
- Provide update on the question whether broken fish has to be reported as animal by-product at Pelagic AC October meeting (DG MARE) **(not dealt with at October meeting)**
- Discuss GT increase for safety reasons within the Pelagic AC and put the issue forward to the Commission (Pelagic AC)
 - Will be addressed later today

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Follow-up on action items

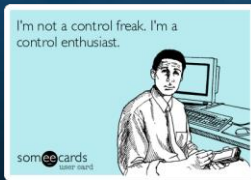
- Provide update on EFCA gramme size project at Pelagic AC October meeting (EFCA)
 - Will be addressed later today
- Add non-compliance with the discard-logging obligation to the problems identified (chairman, secretariat)
 - Will be addressed later today
- Organise another meeting on implementing the landing obligation in October (chairman, secretariat) ✓

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EFCA presentation on gramme sizes

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Control recommendations



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Mandatory gramme sizes

- **Mandatory**, recorded in the logbook

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- Real-time

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- Vessels are already recording the information for market purpose

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- Excellent tool to identify high risk vessels

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Mandatory gramme sizes

- **Mandatory**, recorded in the logbook
- Real-time
- Vessels are already recording the information for market purpose
- Excellent tool to identify high risk vessels
- Additional controls, e.g. CCTV, observers, VMS, ERS and others on high risk vessels

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Other recommendations

- Level-playing field

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- Risk evaluation by gear and species rather than vessel type

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Other recommendations

- Level-playing field
- Risk evaluation by gear and species rather than vessel type
- One pelagic regional group instead of three or four separate groups

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Problems and possible solutions

Footnotes in the TAC and quota regulation, quota swaps & inter-species flexibility to cover demersal bycatch

- Hake bycatch on freezer-trawlers
- Demersal sector not fond of the idea

Example: Horse mackerel in 4.b-c, 7d:

*Without prejudice to the landing obligation, catches of boarfish, whiting and mackerel may be counted against up to 5 % of the quota (OTH/*4BC7D), provided that not more than 9 % in total of this quota for horse mackerel is accounted for by these catches and by-catches of those species that are accounted for under Article 15 (8) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013.*

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Problems and possible solutions

Discard chutes

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Problems and possible solutions

De minimis approach

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Problems and possible solutions

Last haul

Example:

A skipper has 80 tonnes left to catch (in terms of space in RSW tank), but in the last haul accidentally catches 100 tonnes. He cannot pump the last 20 tonnes onboard, because the tanks are full and there is no other vessel in the vicinity to take onboard the remaining catch. What should he do?

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Problems and possible solutions

De minimis exemption for damaged fish

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Problems and possible solutions

GT recommendation

- Policy-makers measure fishing capacity through engine power in kW and gross tonnage (GT)
- Each MS has a capacity ceiling for its fleet in regards to kW and GT which must not be exceeded at any time
- Under the previous CFP there was flexibility to increase GT if the increase was only due to safety or comfort improvements and did not increase the ability of a vessel to catch fish
- This flexibility has been repealed
- The Landing Obligation will lead to storage shortage for unwanted catches and more trips will be needed for the same amount of catch
- A vessel cannot improve safety and comfort anymore

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Problems and possible solutions

GT recommendation

- It is recommended to allow a GT increase for storage space of unwanted catches or processing equipment for processing unwanted catches
- It is also recommended that the safety tonnage provisions of Article 11.5 of Council Regulation (EC) 2372/2002 will be re-instated

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Problems and potential solutions

Non-compliance with the discard-logging requirement:

- Dichotomy of some problems identified and declared as non-existent, i.e. not having been logged, prior to the LO
- E.g.: horse mackerel falling off processing belt have not been reported prior to the LO as discards nor stored as ABP
- E.g.: unintended demersal catches in targeted pelagic fisheries have not been logged and landed prior to the LO; were they discarded, but not logged?

➤ Why should MS grant exemptions if those discards have not been logged in the past and are declared to rarely happen now?

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Interaction with the regional groups

- The Pelagic AC asked the Commission to arrange a meeting with the regional groups and act as facilitator
- Status of the request?

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Thanks for your participation

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