




Implementing the pelagic landing obligation: Problems, solutions and the way forward

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Introduction

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- Successful implementation of the LO depends on the buy-in of those affected by it
- Respect for the LO will only be achieved if rules are reasonable and applied uniformly across all vessels, including from 3rd countries

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Experiences with the pelagic LO



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Many open questions

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- How to discard forbidden species and species under de minimis exemption with closed discard chutes?
=> *Violation of labour conditions*

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- How to deal with bycatch of 0 TAC species?
- How to discard forbidden species and species under de minimis exemption with closed discard chutes?
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- How is the de minimis applied? On individual vessel basis or MS basis?

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Problems and possible solutions

- Saithe bycatch in herring fisheries: trials with a new pelagic grid in Sweden very promising
 - *Flexibility needed to apply technical solutions!*

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 - *Flexibility needed to apply technical solutions!*
- Catch composition rules are often complex and not compatible with the LO
- Often difficult to assess whether damaged fish has been damaged by predators or fishing equipment

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- GT restriction: volume increase used to handle unwanted catch and/or improve comfort and/or safety of crew must not be counted as an increase in fishing capacity

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The biggest problem to date

- Unwillingness of MS regional groups to appropriately consult the Pelagic AC

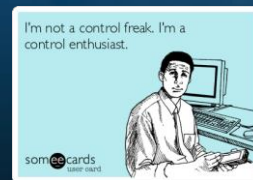
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- Unwillingness of MS regional groups to appropriately consult the Pelagic AC
- Indifference with which MS dismiss virtually all recommendations by the Pelagic AC

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Control recommendations



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Mandatory gramme sizes

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- 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

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- Level-playing field
- Risk evaluation by gear and species rather than vessel type
- One pelagic regional group instead of three or four separate groups
- Collaboration with regional groups must improve, e.g.: *"The Pelagic AC formally requested to be consulted before the recommendation is finalised and sent to the HLG, but the CEG resisted this proposal."*

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Thanks for your participation

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