



Nephrops Management

Current Issues and Evolution



Format

- ICES Benchmark – 25 February to 3 March 2013
- Work of NSRAC Nephrops Focus Group
- EAPO and NWWRAC Position on FU 16 (Porcupine Bank) and Way forward



ICES Benchmark 2013

➤ Purpose

- To ensure that Nephrops stocks are being assessed using the best possible methods
 - By encouraging and incorporating peer review of methodology employed
 - By encouraging and incorporating input from industry sources
 - Enabling scrutiny of work by a wider audience
 - Ensuring robust and defensible science



➤ Stocks Assessed

- FU 3 and 4 (Skagerak and Kattegat)
- FU 6 (Farne Deep)
- FU 11 (North Minch)
- FU 16 (Porcupine Bank)
- FU 32 (Norwegian Deep)
- FU 34 (Devils Hole)



➤ FU 6

- Implications of a change of survey timing
 - Current survey in autumn – clashes with fishery
 - Proposal to change to June
 - Could mean a new time series
 - Agreed to undertake CEFAS survey in June and 'borrow' some Scotia time in October to compare results

- Biological Parameters
 - Female size at maturity appears to have increased (from 24mm to 30mm)
 - The male size at maturity is assumed to be the same
 - Results in a decrease in the harvest ratio (HR)



➤ FU 11

- Changing and refining the area limits of the North Minch – main area as well as sea lochs
- Survey estimates originally based on BGS sediment maps but evident mismatch between maps and VMS activity which changes year to year
- Leads to area estimates of between 1798m and 3300m depending in method of assessing the VMS activity
- Was thought that the methodology leading to an area of 2966m was agreed but the sea lochs are not to be included



➤ FU 16

- UWTV survey methodology accepted although boundaries of area were discussed and accepted
- Issue with time series of commercial trawl surveys – needs some work
- Size at maturity revised downwards
 - Will alter the very precautionary HR as it increased SSB
- Lack of quantitative information on discards – conservative guestimate
- Should be reclassified as a Category 1 stock with reference points (tbc)



NSRAC Nephrops Focus Group – LTMP for North Sea Nephrops

- Why an LTMP?
 - LTMPs were thought to be the way ahead
 - The threat of management at a functional unit level seen to be real – mitigation.

- Basic Approach
 - Functional unit management is a good thing.....but not necessarily by TAC or effort
 - Each FU is different and a ‘toolbox’ approach should be implemented, choosing appropriate tools for each area
 - Individual ‘Sustainability Plans’ to be written for each area in consultation with industry



EAPO/NWWRAC Position on FU 16

- Basic premise:
 - Reduce the period of the season closure
 - Return the 'of which' quota to the overall VII TAC
- How?
 - Suggested that the period of the closure should be related to exploitation and recruitment:

Exploitation		Recruitment		
		Low	Medium	High
Low	1 May – 30 June	1 May – 31 May	1 May – 31 May	1 May – 31 May
	Medium	1 May – 31 July	1 May – 30 June	1 May – 31 May
High	1 May – 31 July	1 May – 30 June	1 May – 30 June	1 May – 30 June



- Implement a trigger for the use of the ‘of which’ quota related to average landings in the absence of reference points.
- Rule for closed area used for 2013 with an undertaking to review the ‘of which’ in the light of new science.
- Propose to analyse the outputs from the ICES Benchmark and assess the potential for a review of the ‘of which’ in year.



Thank you

Questions?