



European  
Conservatives  
and Reformists  
Group



# FISHERIES

**Caroline Healy**

Advisor for Fisheries

ECR Group, European Parliament

[caroline.healy@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:caroline.healy@europarl.europa.eu)

# Horizontal Working Group on the technical Conservation Measures and the Multi- Annual Plan for the Western Waters

- ◆ Overview of how the Parliament process works
- ◆ Multi- Annual Plans- objectives and the principles
- ◆ Technical Conservation Measures – where are we now?
- ◆ Next steps



# CO-DECISION = CO-DECIDERS

European Commission DG Mare publishes a draft proposal



## ◆ European Parliament

In the PECH committee: 1) A **Rapporteur** is appointed.

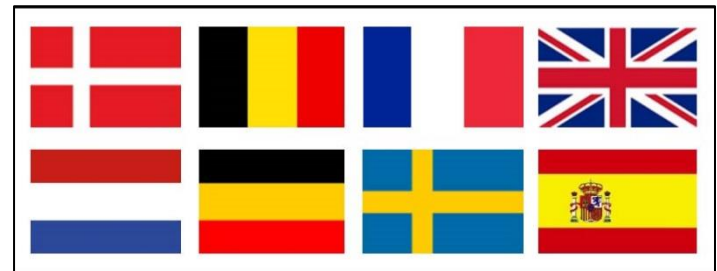
2) Each political group appoints a shadow rapporteur – this is done on geography or politics!

## ◆ Council

Member States work at Working Group level to amend the proposal – for the UK DEFRA officials with sign off from the responsible Minister- George Eustice.

1) *Technical Conservation Measures – EU 28*

2) *North Sea Plan- EU NS + Spain*



# THE MEPS

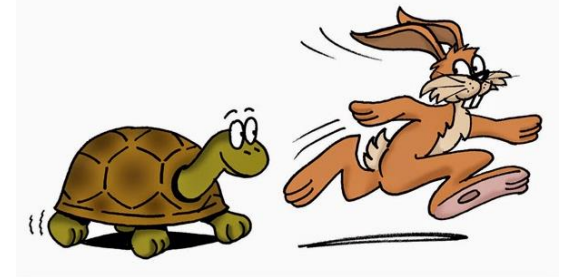


## The RAPPORTEURS + 7 SHADOW RAPPORTEURS



# PARLIAMENTARY PROCESS

- ◆ Shadow rapporteurs & members of the committee table amendments to the Commission's draft proposal.
- ◆ Amendments are translated into all working languages of the committee.
- ◆ They are made publically available. If there are a number of amendments, the rapporteurs office may create "*compromise amendments.*"
- ◆ 27 full or substitute members of the Committee vote on the amendments.
- ◆ They vote in *favour, against or abstention.*
- ◆ Technical Conservation Measures vote took 2 hours.
- ◆ First reading position - with or without mandate to enter into negotiations with the Council.



# PARLIAMENTARY PROCESS

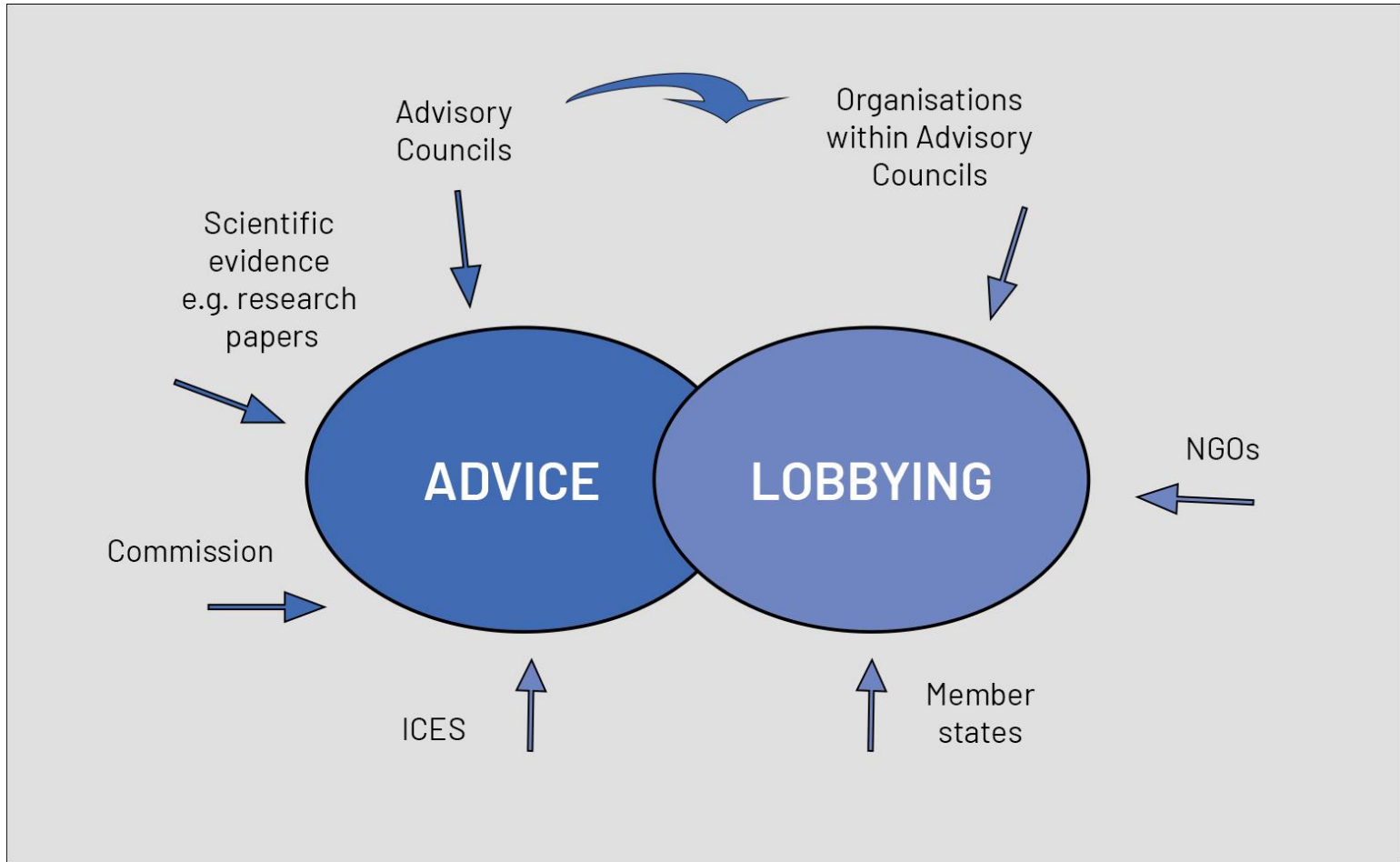
- ◆ The Rapporteur may get a mandate for negotiations without a plenary vote.
- ◆ Co-decision = co-deciders are European Parliament and the Council.
- ◆ In trilogue - Commission are *“honest brokers”*
  - > they do not negotiate.
- ◆ The rotating Presidency chairs the trilogue (Bulgaria, Austria, Romania).
- ◆ The Rapporteur must defend the First reading position.
- ◆ Once Council, Parliament and Commission have agreed on a text —> Second reading agreement
  - > back to PECH committee for MEP vote.
- ◆ The Second reading agreement goes to plenary (EP) and EU Ambassadors (Council).



# When can stakeholders influence?

Article 2 – paragraph 2	COMP 1	EPP, S&D, ALDE, Greens–EFA, GUE–NGL, EFDD	<i>If adopted, go to <b>COMP 2</b></i>		–
	313	<b>Thomas</b>	<i>Falls if COMP 1 adopted</i>		–
	19	<b>Rapporteur</b>	<i>Identical Falls if COMP 1 or AM 313 adopted</i>		+
	314	<b>Rodust, Serrão Santos</b>			
315	<b>Bilbao Barandica</b>				
<b>General and specific objectives</b>					
Article 3	COMP 2	EPP, S&D, ECR, ALDE, Greens–EFA, GUE–NGL, EFDD	<i>If adopted, go to <b>AM 329</b></i>		+
Article 3 – paragraph 1	20	<b>Rapporteur</b>	<i>Falls if COMP 2 adopted Identical</i>		+
	319	<b>Bilbao Barandica</b>			
	318	<b>Torvalds, Nicolai, Marinho e Pinto</b>	<i>Falls if COMP 2 or AM 20 adopted</i>		–
	ENVI 20	<b>ENVI</b>	<i>Falls if COMP 2 or AMs 20 or 318 or adopted</i>		+

- ◆ Drafting/ tabling amendments stage
- ◆ Just before the vote- a voting list is created
- ◆ During the negotiating period between
- ◆ Council and Parliament





# WHY HAVE MULTI- ANNUAL MANAGEMENT PLANS?

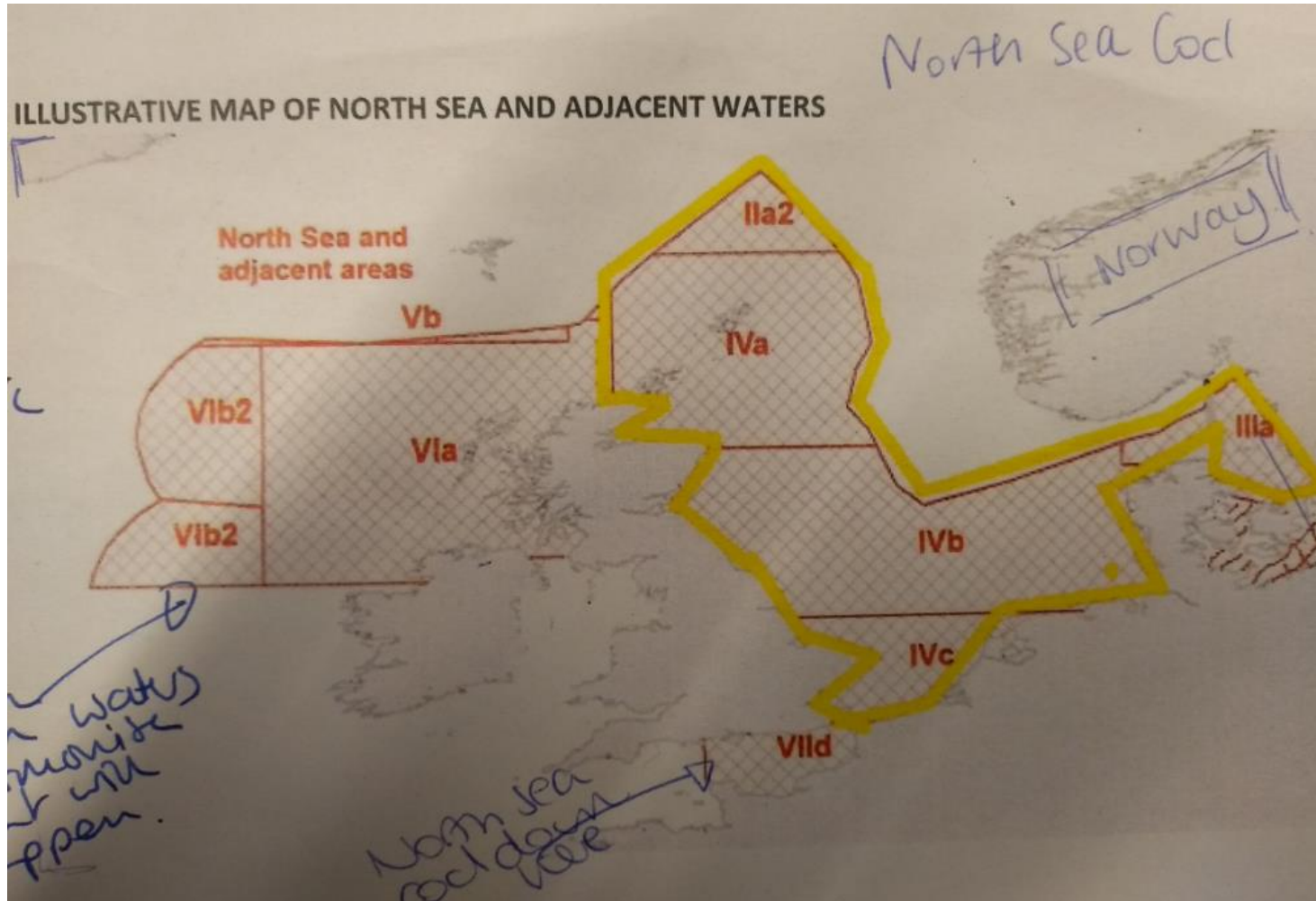
- ◆ The Basic Regulation 1380 - the CFP - establishes the legal framework for MAPs.
- ◆ Regionalisation is a key part of the CFP and the MAPs enable regionalisation.
- ◆ MAPs are a tool for setting fishing mortality values.
- ◆ For the landing obligation, the MAPs will replace the rolling ***3-year delegated acts***.

## *Article 9*

### **Principles and objectives of multiannual plans**

1. Multiannual plans shall be adopted as a priority, based on scientific, technical and economic advice, and shall contain conservation measures to restore and maintain fish stocks above levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield in accordance with Article 2(2).

# How has the North Sea MAP evolved?



*Article 10*

**Content of multiannual plans**

1. As appropriate and without prejudice to the respective competences under the Treaty, a multiannual plan shall include:

- (a) the scope, in terms of stocks, fishery and the area to which the multiannual plan shall be applied;
  - (b) objectives that are consistent with the objectives set out in Article 2 and with the relevant provisions of Articles 6 and 9;
  - (c) quantifiable targets such as fishing mortality rates and/or spawning stock biomass;
  - (d) clear time-frames to reach the quantifiable targets;
  - (e) conservation reference points consistent with the objectives
- 

(f) objectives for conservation and technical measures to be taken in order to achieve the targets set out in Article 15, and measures designed to avoid and reduce, as far as possible, unwanted catches;

(g) safeguards to ensure that quantifiable targets are met, as well as remedial action, where needed, including for situations where the deteriorating quality of data or non-availability put the sustainability of the stock at risk.

The MAP is led by \*\*\* Greens!

- ◆ an emphasis on sustainable fishing
- ◆ the precautionary approach
- ◆ best available scientific advice

# WHAT'S COVERED?

- ◆ Specific species
- ◆ The landing obligation for ALL species subject to a minimum conservation reference size- pelagic and demersal
- ◆ Technical Conservation Measures
- ◆ FMSY ranges- lower and upper
- ◆ Scientific safeguards to prevent overfishing  
(for Upper F- limit)
- ◆ Third Countries.



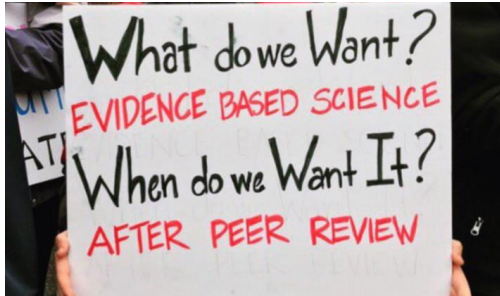
# HORIZONTAL ISSUES

- ◆ Best available scientific advice
- ◆ FMSY value ranges + safeguards
- ◆ Fishing opportunities
- ◆ Recreational fisheries
- ◆ Delegated acts



ANNEX I  
**TARGET FISHING MORTALITY**  
 (as referred to in Article 4)

Stock	Target fishing mortality ranges consistent with achieving maximum sustainable yield ( $F_{MSY}$ )	
	Column A (Part of the range of $F_{MSY}$ as referred to in Article 4(2) and (3))	Column B (Part of the range of $F_{MSY}$ as referred to in Article 4(4))
Western Baltic cod	0,15-0,26	0,26-0,45
Eastern Baltic cod	Not defined	Not defined
Central Baltic herring	0,16-0,22	0,22-0,28
Gulf of Riga herring	0,24-0,32	0,32-0,38
Bothnian Sea herring	0,11-0,15	0,15-0,18
Bothnian Bay herring	Not defined	Not defined
Western Baltic herring	0,23-0,32	0,32-0,41



# RANGES

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The MAP states that target fishing mortality must be within the ranges of FMSY

The Lower and Upper values come from ICES

When Council sets fishing opportunities, it must be within the lower range of FMSY

In order to set fishing opportunities at the upper end of the F value, the stock must be above MSY B trigger and there must be scientific advice to support moving into the upper F range.

◆ The ranges limit the fishing quotas so that they cannot exceed levels regarded as sustainable.

Fishing

Fishing

# Leaked European commission plan would open gates to overfishing

# Overfishing of North Sea may reduce after MEPs vote on fishing quotas

Baltic Sea proposal would allow catches well above current sustainable levels needed to restore healthy fish stocks, putting some species at risk, conservationists warn

Defra welcomes European vote which aims to secure long-term sustainability of North Sea fish stocks

Arthur Neslen

Thu 10 Mar 2016 12.19 GMT



This article is 1 year old

2,517 84

Fiona Harvey Environment correspondent

Fri 15 Sep 2017 11.26 BST



This article is 5 months old

290 404



Fishermen could soon be given carte blanche to overfish without needing to worry about restoring fish populations to a healthy state under a leaked European commission proposal seen by the Guardian.

If it is approved, the blueprint for the Baltic Sea could soon be applied to the North Sea too, potentially threatening the future of some cod species, MEPs say.



The European parliament has voted on a series of measures likely to reduce overfishing in the North Sea which will affect the UK's fishing fleet until Brexit takes effect and potentially beyond.

# TECHNICAL CONSERVATION MEASURES

- ◆ 33 Regulations or management plans into 1
- ◆ Condensing and repealing a number of regulations
- ◆ 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt to revise





# FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND A SHIFT IN APPROACH



The Commission is thinking in a different way.



# COMPLIANCE ARCHITECTURE



The outcome only and freedom for member states to manage their fisheries more regionally



Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

More stakeholder engagement and better management measures



Brussels regulates catch composition, technical measures and allows for few derogations



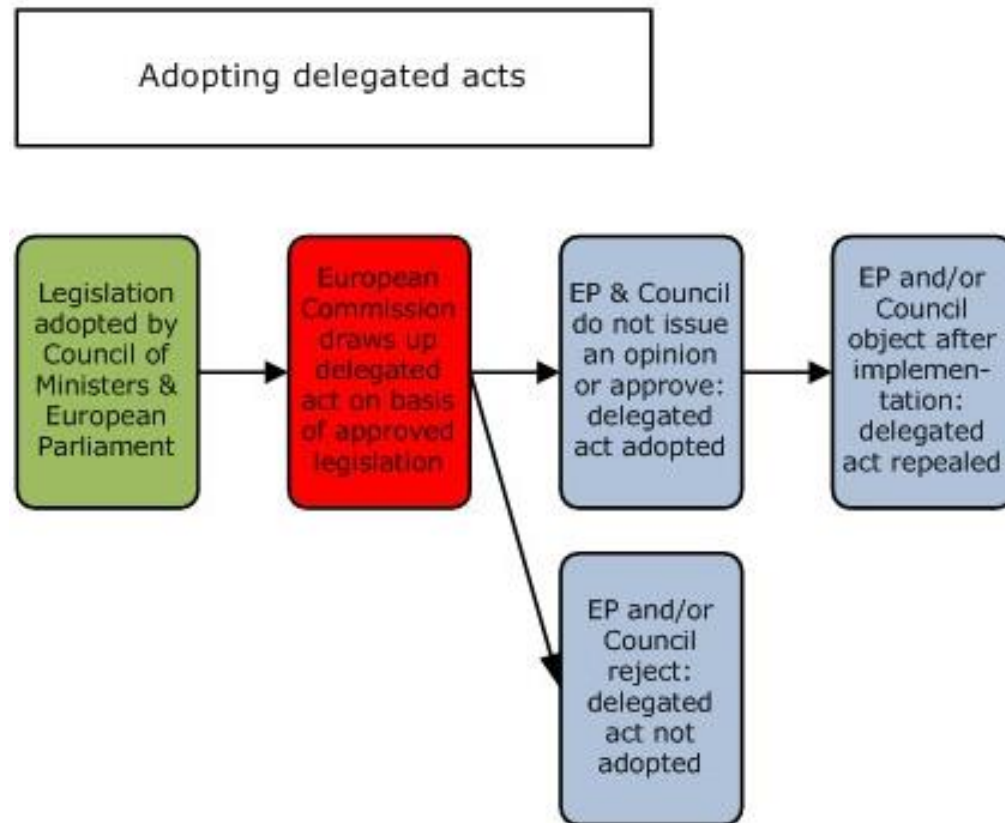
# WHAT'S COVERED?

- ◆ Recreational fisheries and commercial fisheries
- ◆ All Union vessels
- ◆ Targets → indicators
- ◆ There's a new definition of 'directed fishing'
- ◆ Provisions on what to do with catches of marine mammals, seabirds and marine reptiles
- ◆ New addition on adapting fishing vessels
- ◆ Annexes – some catch composition rules

# TARGETS VS PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- ◆ The Commission wanted to establish a flat rate of 5% for reducing catches of species below minimum reference sizes across all fisheries in all sea basins.
- ◆ Parliament rejected a proposal to reduce catches of smaller fish to a level of under 5% of the volume of the total fishery.
- ◆ EU target- 5% - MEPs: not compatible with regionalization and compatible with the landing obligation.
- ◆ Preference for performance indicators which will be driven regionally.

# DELEGATED ACTS



- ◆ The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in the absence of a MAP from action from member states.

# DIRECTED FISHING

## *Text proposed by the Commission*

(4) 'directed fishing' means fishing *for a defined* species or *combination* of species where the *total catch of that/those species makes up more than 50% of the economic value of the catch*;

## *Amendment*

(4) 'directed fishing' means fishing *effort targeted towards a specific* species or *group* of species where the *exact composition varies across fisheries and the specific rules governing the minimum technical specifications of mesh sizes and selective devices by fishery is established at regional level*;

# MARINE MAMMALS, SEABIRDS AND MARINE REPTILES

## *Amendment*

3. Notwithstanding paragraphs 1 and 2, the retention on board, transshipment or landing of specimens of marine species referred to in paragraph 1 which have been caught *accidentally*, shall be *permitted* as far as this activity is necessary to secure assistance for the recovery of the individual animals. *The retention on board, transshipment or landing of specimens of marine species shall be permitted where the specimen is dead and provided that it can be used for scientific purposes.* The competent national authorities concerned *shall be* fully informed in advance.



# NEW ADDITIONS

*Amendment*

## *Article 14a*

*Imported fisheries products intended for human consumption*

*Imported fisheries products intended for human consumption that have been caught outside Union waters in the areas, subareas and divisions referred to in Article 5 shall comply with the minimum conservation reference sizes laid down in the Annexes to this Regulation.*

*Amendment*

## *SECTION 5a*

### *ADAPTATION OF FISHING VESSELS*

#### *Article 17b*

##### *Adaptation of tonnage*

*On new and existing fishing vessels, increases in the tonnage of the vessel intended to improve safety on board, working conditions and the hygiene and quality of products, as well as increases in the tonnage of the vessel intended to store unwanted catches subject to the landing obligation in accordance with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 shall be authorised, provided that they do not result in an increase in the vessel's catch potential. The corresponding volumes*



# THE LANDING OBLIGATION

- ◆ MEPs are still concerned about what fishermen do with landed fish that they can not sell.
- ◆ The Parliament's position calls on member states to allocate more support and infrastructure landing sites and storage facilities.
- ◆ The annexes provide mesh sizes per species and catch composition rules.



# NEXT STEPS.....

- ◆ Waiting for the Bulgarian Presidency to schedule a trilogue
  - it's their first Presidency since becoming a member of the EU.
- ◆ The Parliament's position and Council's position are very similar so negotiations could go quickly.
- ◆ The Austrian Presidency will take over in July.

# ANY QUESTIONS?

[caroline.healy@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:caroline.healy@europarl.europa.eu)

What's coming up before December 2020 ...

- ◆ MAP Western Waters
- ◆ Revised Control Regulation (to align with the new CFP)