Outcomes shark and ray expert meeting

Amsterdam, 1-2 February 2016

Irene Kingma – Dutch Elasmobranch Society

For NWWAC skates & ray WG meeting
Paris, 3 February 2016

Background

- 2014 advice recovery plan for sharks and rays in the North Sea
  - Education and communication (ID-skills, biology, ecology)
  - Invest in innovative solutions bycatch reduction
    - Avoidance, selectivity and survival
  - International coordination and cooperation

1st expert meeting, 8 Dec 2016

- 14 participants
- Reps from management, industry, science and civil society
- Positive discussion
- Formulated 9 common goals

2nd expert meeting, 1-2 Feb 2016

28 participants

- 5 management
- 10 industry (4 active fishermen)
- 7 scientist
- 6 civil society representatives

Main issues in Shark and Ray management

- Lack of data (biology, fisheries, distribution)
- Management through TAC & quota is a bad fit
- Landing obligation

Main issues: Lack of data

Lack of data (biology, fisheries, distribution)

- Species are not caught in scientific surveys
- Issues with identification throughout the supply chain
- Unwillingness to share data because of potential implications

Main issues: TAC & Quota

Management through TAC & quota is a bad fit

- Group TAC is restrictive for abundant species and does not protect depleted species
- A 0-TAC leads to increased discarding without addressing mortality
- Moving species to the prohibited species list does not trigger any protective management

Main issues: 3

Landing obligation

- Taking into account the current level of discarding skates and rays will become a choke species in many demersal fisheries
- A 0-TAC is incompatible with the LO
- It highly improbable that there will be evidence for high survival for all species in al areas and metiers by mid-2018.

Working towards solutions: Lack of data

i. **Incentivise data collection by industry by:**

- Making clear what the benefits and consequences are (carrot and stick)
- Transparency on where and how data is to be used
- Commitment from policy makers to operators providing data that the will be involved in mitigating issues arising
- Streamlining data collection formats (make use of new techniques like apps)
- Resource efficiency in data collection
- Premium value for 'doing the right thing'

Working towards solutions: TAC & Quota

i. **Find a way to introduce a spatial element in the management**

ii. Use escapement as a way to protect a core of the biomass

- Work out specific case studies and evaluations
- If closures are needed look at seasons/gears
- Should not displace fisheries with other economic drivers

iii. **GAP analysis of actions taken/programs developed**

iv. **Case studies of different fisheries/scenarios**

Working towards solutions: Landing obligation

i. **2 tracks to address exemptions**:
   1) increase scientific evidence base for survival,
   2) develop a package of 'best practice' measures addressing avoidance, selectivity and survival.

ii. **Ecological risk assessment incorporating species/area/fisheries**

iii. **Make objectives for management clear**