Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Aligning Spurdog with the Landing Obligation

The Challenges

How do we:

- Eliminate high levels of discarding
- Reduce overall fishing mortality
- Ensure continued stock recovery
- Avoid creating a ‘choke’ species

Find a solution that offers a pragmatic approach to balance levels of mortality and dead discards and is transferrable to other potential ‘choke’ species

Why use spurdog as a case study?

- Zero TAC

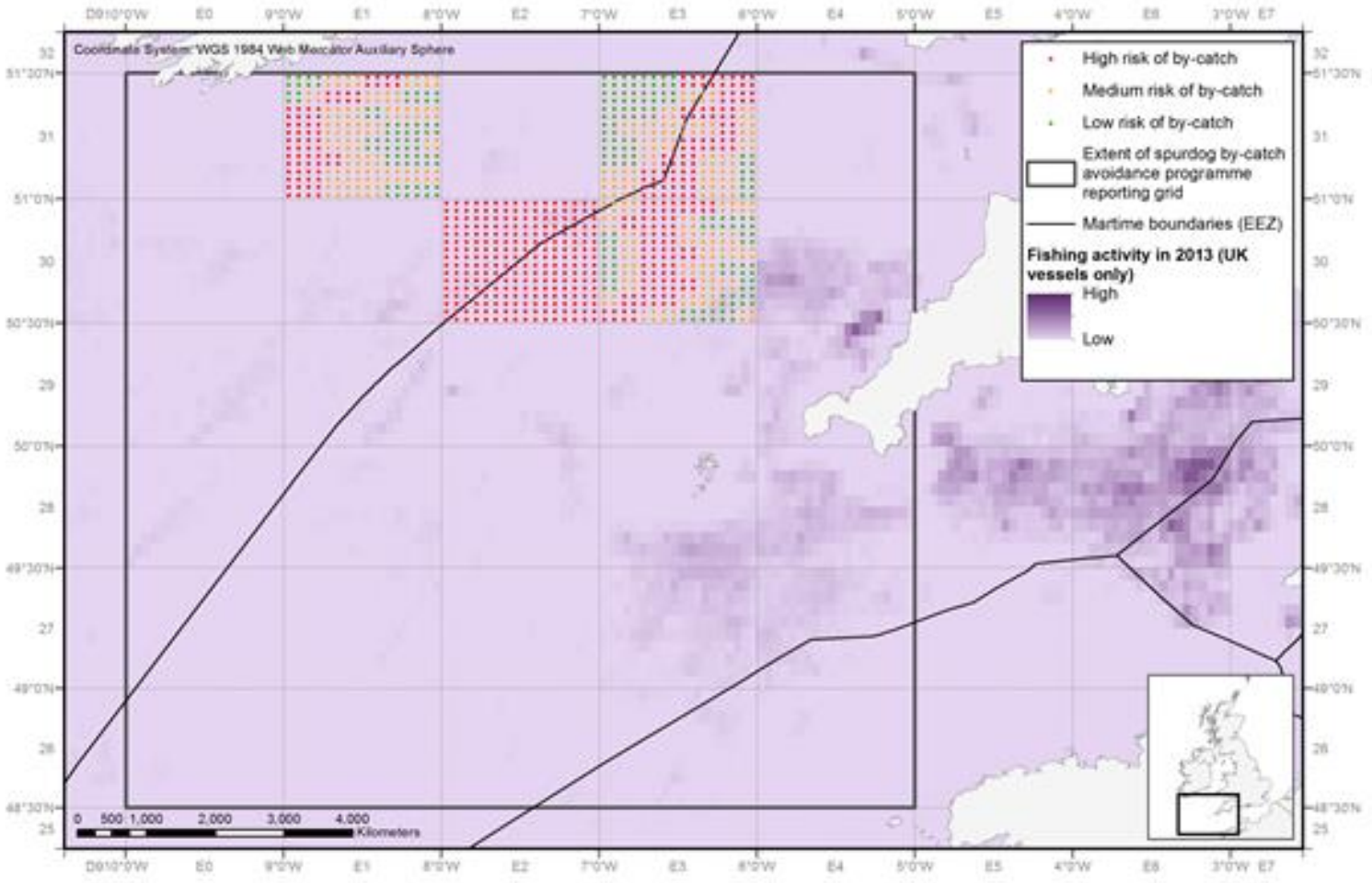
- Significant bycatch events

- Potential for high levels of mortality

Overview of Spurdog Research

- The UK has funded research projects to gather information on spurdog such as:
  - Biological sampling
  - Behaviours including the identification of seasonal movements
  - Levels of bycatch and discard survivability
- FSP funded, NFFO led consultation to ensure the development of the proposal is driven by a wide range of stakeholders

The Spurdog Bycatch Avoidance Tool



The Spurdog Bycatch Avoidance Tool

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: xxxxxxxxxxxxx@stratosmobile.net
Date: 20 October 2015 18:49:20 BST
To: xxxxxxxxxxxxx@gmail.com
Subject: Message from Inmarsat-C Mobile

from xxxxxxxx,skipper of xxxxxxxxxxxx PZ xxxxxx,
date 19/10/15
hauled 7 mile of 125mm gill nets .14-24 hr soak
29e1, p 13. 66kgs mixed size spurdogs
29e2, g,13 33kgs mixed size spurdogs
29e2, f,12, 50kgs mixed size spurdogs
thank you,rgds phil..

The Spurdog Bycatch Avoidance Tool

Centre for Environment Fisheries & Aquaculture Science

Cefas

Spurdog By-catch Avoidance Programme: 24 Hour Reporting

Please enter information from the 24 hour reporting sheet submitted by a vessel. Please record the level of spurdog by-catch reported by each fishing vessel, every 24 hours, for each grid cell fished, even if it was zero.

In step 1, enter vessel ID, date and time of submission and weight of spurdog by-catch, followed by up to 12 grid cells fished and associated by-catch of spurdog for each grid cell entered.

Click once anywhere on the map in step 2 (it doesn't matter where because locations are derived from the grid cell references entered in step 1), before submitting the entry in step 3 to add the information to the spurdog by-catch advisory map.

If more than 12 grid cells were fished, enter and submit the data for the first 12 cells. Once done, return to the main form and enter and submit the data for the remaining cells. To do this, it will be necessary to enter vessel ID, date and time of submission a second time.

1. Enter Information

Vessel ID

Anonymous vessel identifier used for the Spurdog By-catch Avoidance Programme

Date of report (dd/mm/yyyy)

Date by-catch weight was reported

Time of report (HH:MM:SS)

Time by-catch weight was reported

Reference for 1st grid cell fished

Enter reporting grid cell reference. Must match a cell reference in the Spurdog by-catch avoidance programme reporting grid reference booklet, e.g. 26E0A00.

By-catch of spurdog (weight in kg) for 1st grid cell (above)

By-catch of spurdog. Enter 0 if the cell was fished but there was no by-catch of spurdog.

Reference for 11th grid cell fished

Enter reporting grid cell reference. Must match a cell reference in the Spurdog by-catch avoidance programme reporting grid reference booklet, e.g. 26E0A00. Leave blank if fewer than 11 cells were fished.

By-catch of spurdog (weight in kg) for 11th grid cell (above)

By-catch of spurdog. Enter 0 if the cell was fished but there was no by-catch of spurdog. Leave blank if fewer than 11 cells were fished.

Reference for 12th grid cell fished

Enter reporting grid cell reference. Must match a cell reference in the Spurdog by-catch avoidance programme reporting grid reference booklet, e.g. 26E0A00. Leave blank if fewer than 12 cells were fished.

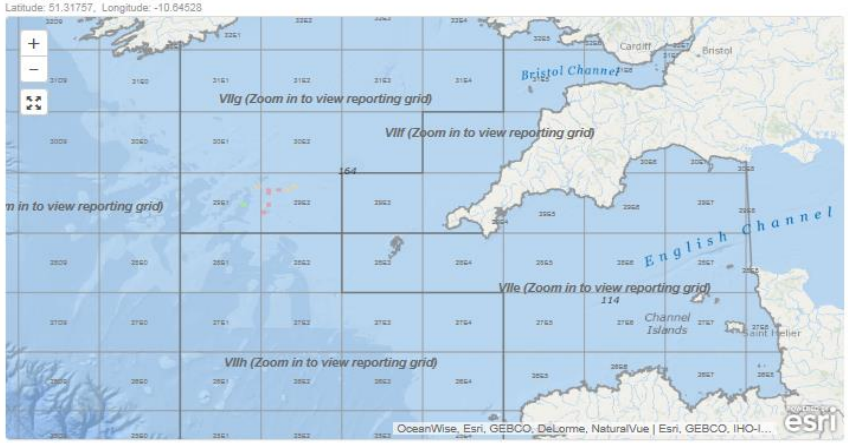
By-catch of spurdog (weight in kg) for 12th grid cell (above)

By-catch of spurdog. Enter 0 if the cell was fished but there was no by-catch of spurdog. Leave blank if fewer than 12 cells were fished.

2. Select Location

Specify the location for this entry by clicking/tapping the map.

Latitude: 51.31757, Longitude: -10.64528

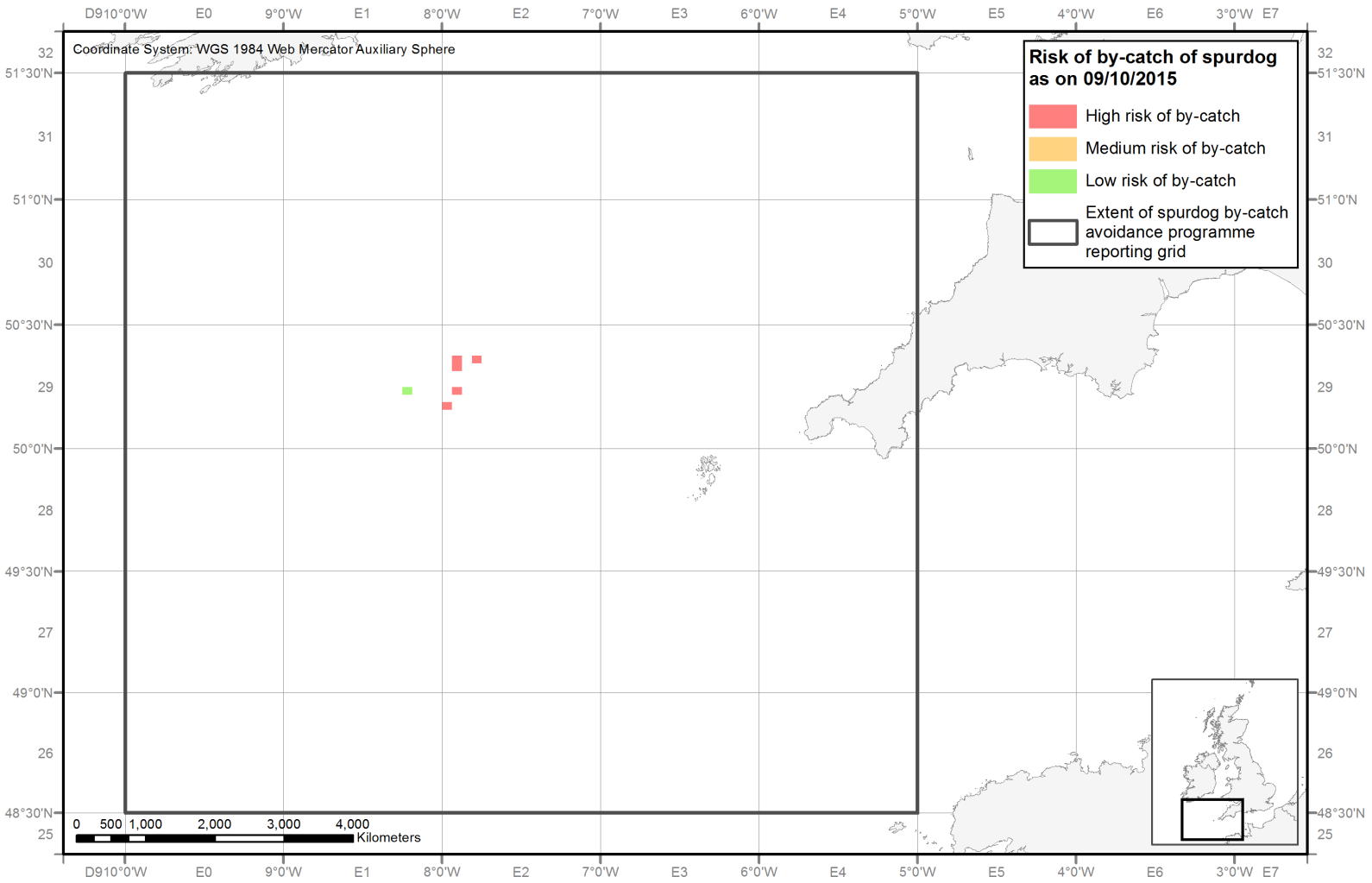


3. Complete Form

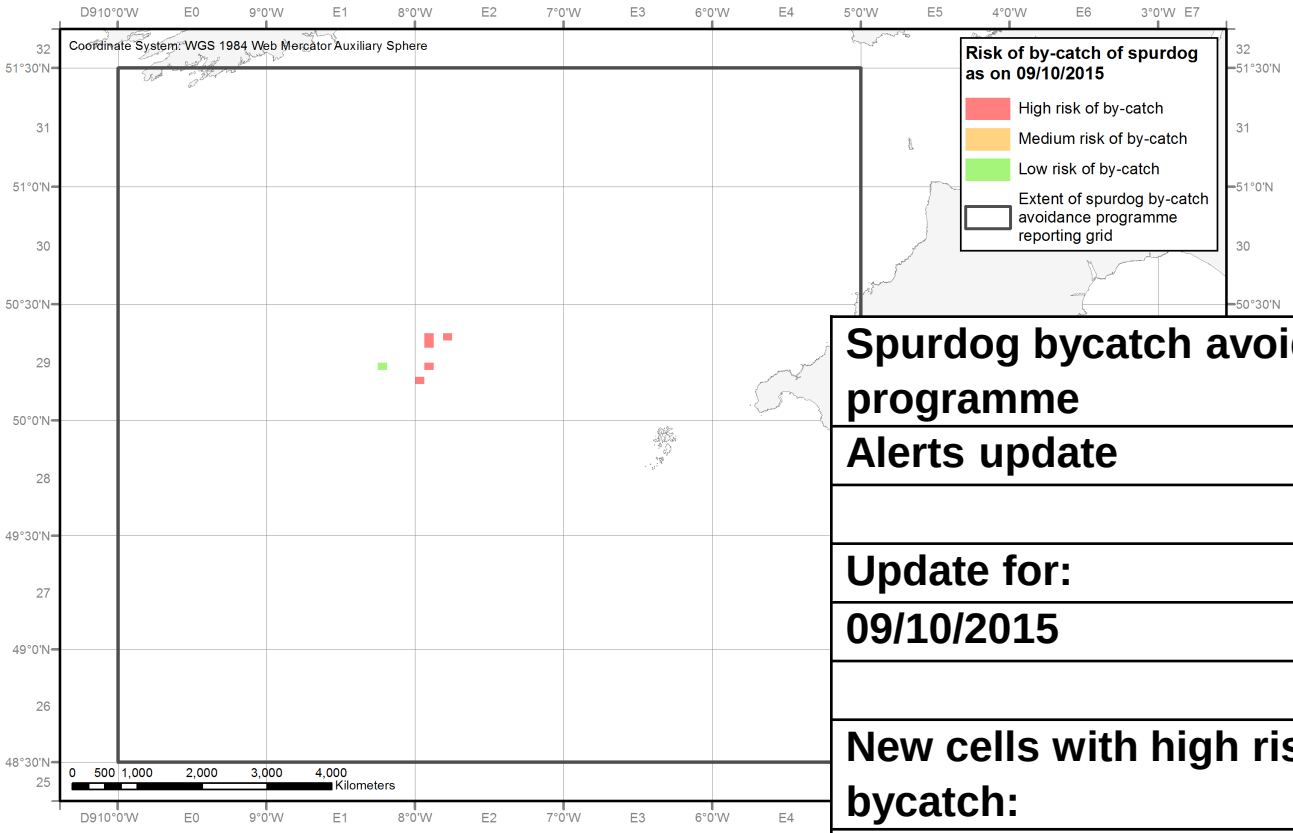
Add this information to the map.

Submit Entry

The Spurdog Bycatch Avoidance Tool



The Spurdog Bycatch Avoidance Tool



Spurdog bycatch avoidance programme
Alerts update
Update for:
09/10/2015
New cells with high risk of bycatch:
29E2A06
29E2B08
New cells with medium risk of bycatch:
None

STECF Review

The most recent STECF Winter Plenary noted that:

"*The UK proposal could potentially aid rebuilding of spurdog by promoting avoidance behaviour that may in turn lead to reductions in fishing mortality*."

"*Catches at the level of the most recent TAC are predicted to result in a 27% increase in stock biomass after 10 years whereas a zero catch is predicted to give rise to a 32% increase in stock biomass*"