

SWFPA

The Scottish White Fish
Producers Association Ltd



NWWAC – WG1 – West of Scotland

Selectivity or Avoidance
Madrid, 12 March 2019

Proposals for Selectivity or avoidance measures

After 16 Years of zero TAC advice for cod in WoS there was recognition of potential for serious damage to the viability of vessels operating in these waters following full implementation of the Landing Obligation in 2019.

The Scottish Industry welcomed the approach taken at December Council

COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2019/124

of 30 January 2019

fixing for 2019 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters

Quota exchanges mechanism for TACs for unavoidable by-catches related to the introduction of the landing obligation

1. In order to take into account the introduction of the landing obligation and to make quotas available to Member States without a quota for certain by-catches, the quota exchange mechanism as defined in this Article shall apply to the TACs identified in Annex IA.
2. 6 % of each quota from the TACs for cod in the Celtic Sea, cod in the West of Scotland, whiting in the Irish Sea and plaice in ICES divisions 7h, 7j and 7k, and 3 % of each quota from the TAC for West of Scotland whiting, allocated to each Member State, shall be made available for a pool for quota exchanges, which shall open as of 1 January 2019. Member States without quota shall have exclusive access to the quota pool until 31 March 2019.
3. The quantities drawn from the pool may not be exchanged or transferred to the following year. Any unused quantities shall be returned to those Member States that have initially contributed to the pool for quota exchanges after 31 March 2019.
4. The quotas provided in return shall be preferably taken from a list of TACs identified by each Member State contributing to the pool as listed in the Appendix to Annex IA.
5. Those quotas shall be of equivalent commercial value by using a market exchange rate or other mutually acceptable exchange rates. In absence of alternatives, the equivalent economic value in accordance to the average Union prices of the previous year, as provided by the European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products, shall be used.
6. In cases where the above mechanism does not allow Member States to cover their unavoidable by-catches to a similar extent, Member States shall endeavour to agree on quota exchanges pursuant to Article 16(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, ensuring that quotas exchanged are of equivalent commercial value.

Approach taken in Scotland to inform Regional approach



- An immediate notification of 1.5% bycatch provision for both cod and whiting
- Associations and PO's held discussions with members regarding management of Scottish allocation
(noting that this was less than what was needed to maintain activity through 2019.. Also highlighted that one solution does not fit all – eg vessels have different quota allocations, differing environmental factors impact on selectivity, inshore / offshore issues)
- Fisheries Management and Conservation (FMAC) met on 31 January 2019
- Number of proposed measure for inclusion in the NWW discard reduction plan considered
- Further analysis undertaken by Marine Scotland
 - Increased cod bycatch to 3%
 - Maintain whiting bycatch at 1.5%
- If swaps could be brought in, % could change – to be kept under review
- no allocation of cod or whiting (WoS) to FQA's
- **No targeting of WoS cod or whiting by TR1**

Proposals for selectivity and avoidance measures



Marine Scotland to develop Discard Reduction Plan for submission to NWW by 30 April 2019

Further report on control measures by 1 July 2019 - (First meeting of NWW Technical Group – 20 February 2019)

FMAC considered large Square Mesh Panel for 80-90mm and 120mm gears.

GITAG (Gear Innovation Technology Advisory Group) investigating the impact of larger SMP on lower powered vessels towing 80-90mm mesh

SFO taking forward work on Real Time mapping and avoidance

Potential to restrict access to WoS based on track record

MS expect industry to act responsibly and if required, MS could consider introducing single area license provisions

Discussion about potential for industry to fund increased observer coverage for the control measures report

MS agreed to inform of the measures it would raise at NWW TG.

MS may consider a “quota pool” against which <MCRS species could be counted

MS to enter discussion with SAFPO on the creation, management and funding of a “quota pool”

Management proposal (for FMAC comment).



Selectivity for West of Scotland

The initial objective is to secure a regional discard reduction plan whose elements apply to all vessels operating in the area, regardless of nationality.

Table provided showing proposed changes to existing measures depending on fishery / mesh size (eg increasing Small Mesh Panel size to 300mm for <100mm gear)

Complimentary measures

Restricting access to the West of Scotland to vessels who have previously fished there.

Increased observer coverage

Deminimis

FMAC to indicate if they wish to progress *Deminimis* requests (fish below MCRS) within the Regional Group.

National Measures

Continue to explore the possibility and operating of a real time reporting system that allows for enhanced avoidance of unwanted catch.

GITAG – Gear Innovation Technology Advisory Group

- Currently looking to trial some measures being considered part (or not) of the discard reduction plan:
 - SMP 300 mm on TR2 Inshore in the WC
 - Separator panel (already proved successful in North Sea *nephrops*)
 - Square mesh 4 panel cod end

GITAG continue to work with Associations to consider local options for gear selectivity.