



The Irish Sea Sole-stock A “sole” Belgian problem?

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OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Set up research project for sole Irish Sea
 - ✓ Restore and secure the sole stock
- ✓ Achieve sustainable fisheries in the Irish Sea

ULTIMATE AIM

Fisheries Science Partnership within regional approach (NWWRAC)

to develop a management plan preferable on mixed fisheries basis within an ecosystem approach

BELGIAN QUOTA MANAGEMENT IN THE IRISH SEA

2013

- Initial Belgian sole quotum decreased with 73%:
36 tonnes + swap of 67 tonnes = **103 tonnes sole**
- National closure of fisheries in VIIa in January 2013
- February–end of August 2013: **12 vessels admitted**
- Two conditions: no sole in VIIe and **obligation to take scientific observers on board.**
- **Obligation to notify on time.** ILVO puts observers on board, WHERE POSSIBLE
- IF NOT notified: consequences for quota 2014

OBSERVERTRIPS January – June 2013

11/12 vessels active in VIIa (10 TBB – 1 OTB)

42 fisheries trips

249 days at sea in VIIa

41 TBB

1 OTB

11 trips not notified (26%)

9 trips notified too late (21%)

22 trips notified on time (53%)

14 not observed

8 with observer (36%)

SOME RESULTS

CPUE February: 18,3

CPUE March: 11,9

CPUE April: 20

1.517 kg Sole/fishing trip

256 kg sole/day at sea in VIIa

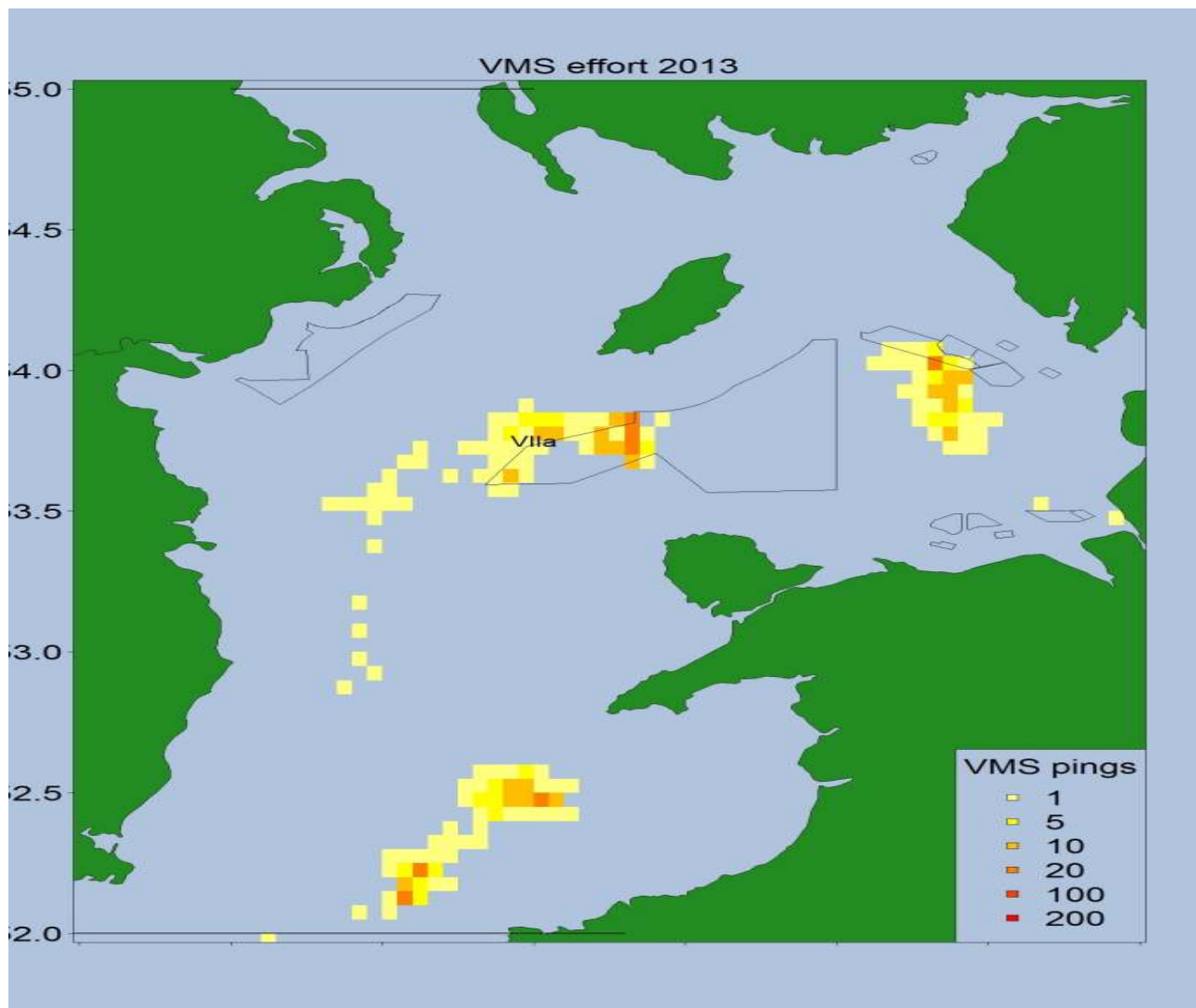
➤ **3 typical Irish Sea-fishers (15 tonnes): 500 kg sole/day at sea**

➤ **8 other vessels (4 tonnes): 120 kg sole/day at sea**

QUOTA UPTAKE January – June 2013

In tonnes	Initial	Swaps	Effective	Uptake (tonnes)	Uptake (%)
Sole	36	+67	103	64	62
Plaice	42	+178	220	58	27
Cod	4	+13	17	9	54
Haddock	19	+19	38	3,5	9
Whiting	0		0	1	

VMS effort Belgian fleet 2013 - Q1



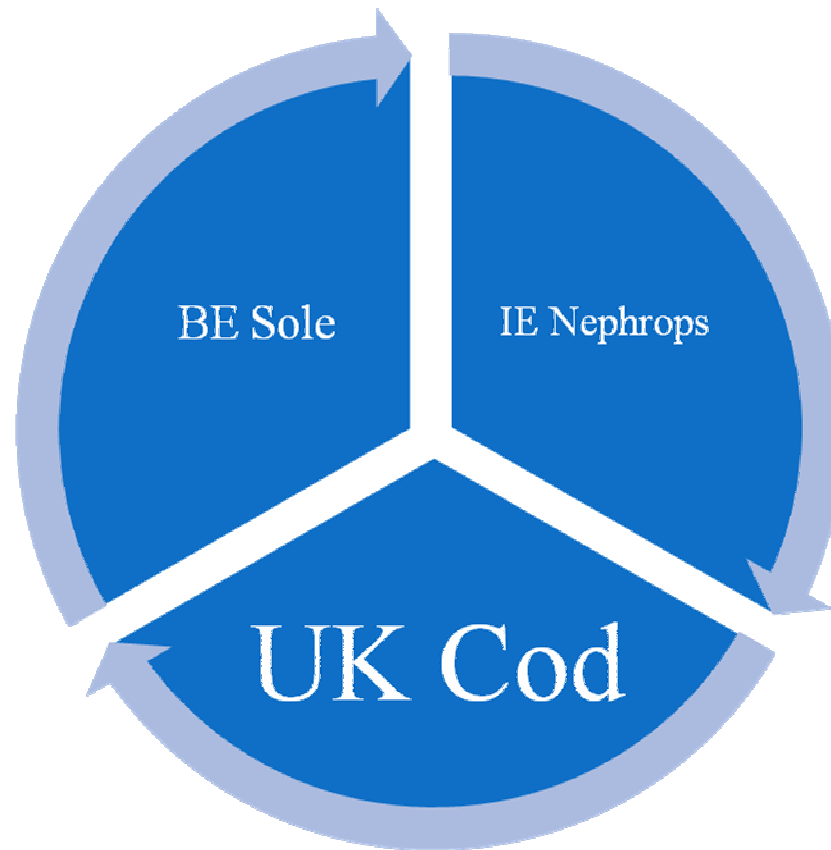
Letter from the Commission July 10th 2013

Request for funding was sent to the Commission on April 30th 2013

Remarks by the Commission on July 10th 2013

- Re-think approach and integrate in wider project focusing on development of a mixed fisheries plan for Irish Sea (*OK*)
- With full support, according to regionalisation, from
 - NWWRAC (*OK*)
 - Other Member States (*Belgium only MS interested in sole*)
- Mechanism for addressing perceived weakness in the assessment or resolving differences in the current surveys = ICES benchmark process – Contact ICES and STECF (*want to prepare input for benchmark in 2015 (?)*)
- Financing for observer coverage is provided under Data Collection Framework – No direct financing for the AC's (*not only observer coverage*)
- Consider time frames. DST Celtic Sea in development but no application for other areas in next 2 years. (*start up in parallel*)

Integration of three concerns





Thank you!

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