

## **EWG on the Landing Obligation in EU Fisheries**

**8 -12 September 2014, Varese, Italy**

**DG Mare focal person: Dominic Rihan (A2)**

**JRC focal person: Hendrik Doerner/Dimitrios Damalas**

**Chair: Norman Graham**

### **Background**

The introduction of the landing obligation in the new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) represents a fundamental shift in the management approach to EU fisheries, switching the focus from the regulation of landings to catches as well as introducing regionalised decision-making into the management of EU fisheries.

Three STECF EWG meetings (EWG 13-23, EWG 14-01 and EWG 14-06) have considered a number of scientific and technical issues associated with some of the provisions and flexibilities contained in the landing obligation. Through these EWG meetings, STECF has provided advice and guidance for the Commission, Member States and stakeholders to assist in implementation of the landing obligation and the formulation of regional discard plans.

STECF has also evaluated joint recommendations submitted by regional groupings of Member States at the July plenary meeting relating to the fisheries coming under the landing obligation from 1 January 2015 (i.e. pelagic, industrial and also salmon and cod fisheries in the Baltic Sea).

The next timeline in the CFP relates to demersal fisheries in the North Sea, North Western Waters and South Western Waters which will come under the landing obligation by 1 January 2016 with full implementation by 1 January 2019. By way of preparation and guidance for regional groupings of Member States and the Advisory Councils in preparing joint recommendations for these fisheries, it is proposed to hold a fourth STECF EWG in September 2014.

For each of these sea basins, this EWG will review information on survivability in the relevant fisheries and gears; identify specific discard problems in these fisheries that may fall under a de minimis exemption; and identify potential restrictive quotas that may lead to severe restrictions in fishing activity (i.e. choke species).

The EWG will not consider the issue of documentation of catches or the definition of fisheries as these issues have been looked at in previous STECF EWGs.

### **Terms of Reference**

1. Review the available knowledge on the survival of relevant species covered by catch limits in demersal fisheries in the North Sea, North Western Waters and South Western waters.
2. Analyse demersal fisheries to be covered by the landing obligation from 1 January 2016 in the sea basins mentioned under 1, with the aim of developing a provisional list of fisheries where reducing unwanted catches through improvements in selectivity is problematic (e.g. or where loss of target species would make the fishery unviable) or where handling unwanted catches may lead to disproportionate costs (e.g. sorting such catches on board will generate excessive additional costs).
3. Carry out a qualitative analysis to develop a provisional list of fisheries in which for TAC or quota reasons (e.g. low or zero fishing opportunities) for one or other species, the fishing activities may be negatively impacted in the sea basins mentioned in 1 above.

**Annex:**

[http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/44880/08-06\\_SG-MOS+08-01+-+Reduction+of+discarding+practices\\_JRC49008.pdf](http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/44880/08-06_SG-MOS+08-01+-+Reduction+of+discarding+practices_JRC49008.pdf)

[http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/364146/12-07\\_STECF+12-14+-+Management+plans+II+-+area+definitions\\_JRC73150.pdf](http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/364146/12-07_STECF+12-14+-+Management+plans+II+-+area+definitions_JRC73150.pdf)

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[http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/44951/08-04\\_SG-MOS+07-04+-+Evaluation+on+Discards\\_SEC2008.pdf](http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/44951/08-04_SG-MOS+07-04+-+Evaluation+on+Discards_SEC2008.pdf)

[http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/432011/12-11\\_STECF-12-20+Defining+selectivity+under+TM+regulation\\_JRC76897.pdf](http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/432011/12-11_STECF-12-20+Defining+selectivity+under+TM+regulation_JRC76897.pdf)

[http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/44839/10-04\\_PLEN+10-01\\_JRC58540.pdf](http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/44839/10-04_PLEN+10-01_JRC58540.pdf)

[http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/reform/impact\\_assessments\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/reform/impact_assessments_en.htm)

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0417:FIN:EN:PDF>

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0425:FIN:EN:PDF>

[http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/594118/2013-07\\_STECF-PLEN-13-02\\_JRCxxx.pdf](http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/594118/2013-07_STECF-PLEN-13-02_JRCxxx.pdf)

[http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/610582/2013-11\\_STECF+13-23+-+Landing+obligation+in+EU+Fisheries-part1\\_JRC86112.pdf](http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/610582/2013-11_STECF+13-23+-+Landing+obligation+in+EU+Fisheries-part1_JRC86112.pdf)

[http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/633247/2014-02\\_STECF+14-01+-+Landing+obligations+in+EU+fisheries+-p2\\_JRC88869.pdf](http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/633247/2014-02_STECF+14-01+-+Landing+obligations+in+EU+fisheries+-p2_JRC88869.pdf)

[http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/675595/2014-04\\_STECF+14-06+-+Landing+obligations+in+EU+fisheries\\_p3\\_JRC89785.pdf](http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/675595/2014-04_STECF+14-06+-+Landing+obligations+in+EU+fisheries_p3_JRC89785.pdf)