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CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR  
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES  
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**NORTH WESTERN  
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**Welcome to the NWWAC Meetings,  
3 – 4 July in Ghent**

# NWWAC HORIZONTAL Working Group

Technical Measures

Ghent, 4 July 2018



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# Mesh Size Annexes

# What are the issues?

- Council proposes reintroduction of catch composition rules
- Catch composition criticized by sector since introduction
- Obligated fishermen to discard in order to comply with mesh size rules
- Examples shown mean that >>50% of catch could be cod caught with small mesh
- Potentially for serious deterioration from current standards

<u>Codend</u> Mesh Size	Geographical Areas	Conditions
At least 120mm <sup>1</sup>	Whole area	None
<u>At least</u> <u>100mm</u>	<u>ICES sub-area</u> <u>VIIb, c, f-k</u>	<u>None<sup>xxxxx</sup></u>
At least 1080mm <sup>1-x</sup>	<u>Whole area</u> <u>ICES sub-area VII</u>	Directed fishing for hake, <u>megrim and anglerfish (combined 50%)</u> , or whiting, <u>mackerel and species not covered by catch limits (combined 50%)</u> . A square mesh panel of 1200mm shall be fitted <sup>xxx</sup> .  <u>Directed fishing for sole (15%) using otter trawls<sup>xxxxx</sup> or species not covered by catch-limits (50%)</u> A square mesh panel of at least 80mm shall be fitted <sup>xxx</sup> .
At least 80mm	Whole area	Directed fishing for <i>Nephrops norvegicus</i> <sup>xx</sup> (30%) <del>or species not covered by catch limits<sup>xxx</sup></del> . A square mesh panel of at least 120mm or sorting grid with a maximum bar spacing of 35mm or equivalent selectivity device shall be fitted.
At least 80mm	ICES divisions VIIa, b, d, e, f, g, h and j	Directed fishing for sole (15%) with beam trawls. A panel with a minimum mesh size of at least 180mm <sup>xxxx</sup> fitted in the upper half of the anterior part of the net shall be fitted.
<u>At least</u> <u>80mm</u>	<u>ICES divisions</u> <u>VIIId and VIIe</u>	<u>Directed fishing of whiting, mackerel and species not covered by catch limits (combined 50%)</u>

# What's the alternative?

- Provide a “by-catch” allowance for smaller mesh fisheries
- Principle: for the use of smaller mesh sizes (e.g. 80mm); provide a by-catch allowance comprised of species targeted with larger mesh sizes e.g. cod, haddock, hake and saithe (120mm)
- If by-catch limit is exceeded then larger mesh size (e.g. 120mm) applies or the use of alternative techniques with similar selectivity
- Views of the AC welcome!

# Selectivity Performance Indicators

# Background

- Central element to COM proposal: *“The potential for a shift away from complex prescriptive rules towards a results-based management approach”*
- 5% target in COM proposal rejected
- Scientifically robust alternative sought by Council and Parliament

Finding a solution is crucial to:

- (i) quantify the effectiveness of the technical measures regulation and;
- (ii) permit the possibility to move away from a prescriptive towards a results based approach and;
- (iii) provide the legal basis by providing a common objective across sea basins, considered as an essential element of the proposal.

# State of play – alternative options

- Commission considers EU-wide goals as essential elements of the proposal
- Alternative proposal for a “selectivity performance indicator (SPI)”
- Based on the principle that there is an optimal harvest length
- Tell us "where we are now" and "where we would like to be"
- SPI provides a “yardstick” to measure direction
- Ensure that regionalisation is working as planned without Brussels micro-management of technical measures.



# State of play - Implications

- SPI used to set out aspirational goals using EU-wide common framework (legally important!)
- SPI only for key indicator stocks used monitor changes in main fisheries over time
- There is no fixed time objective – simply used as a metric thereby enabling a results based approach

# Next Steps

- European Parliament seeking opinion from AC's (1 September) on:
  - Rules for mesh sizes and;
  - Selectivity Performance Indicators
- Input will be critical for later discussions
- Any specific questions [Norman.GRAHAM@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Norman.GRAHAM@ec.europa.eu)
- Thank you for your time!