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FAST TRACK: Industry developed gear solutions under the landing obligation

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FAST TRACK

Industry developed gear solutions under the landing obligation

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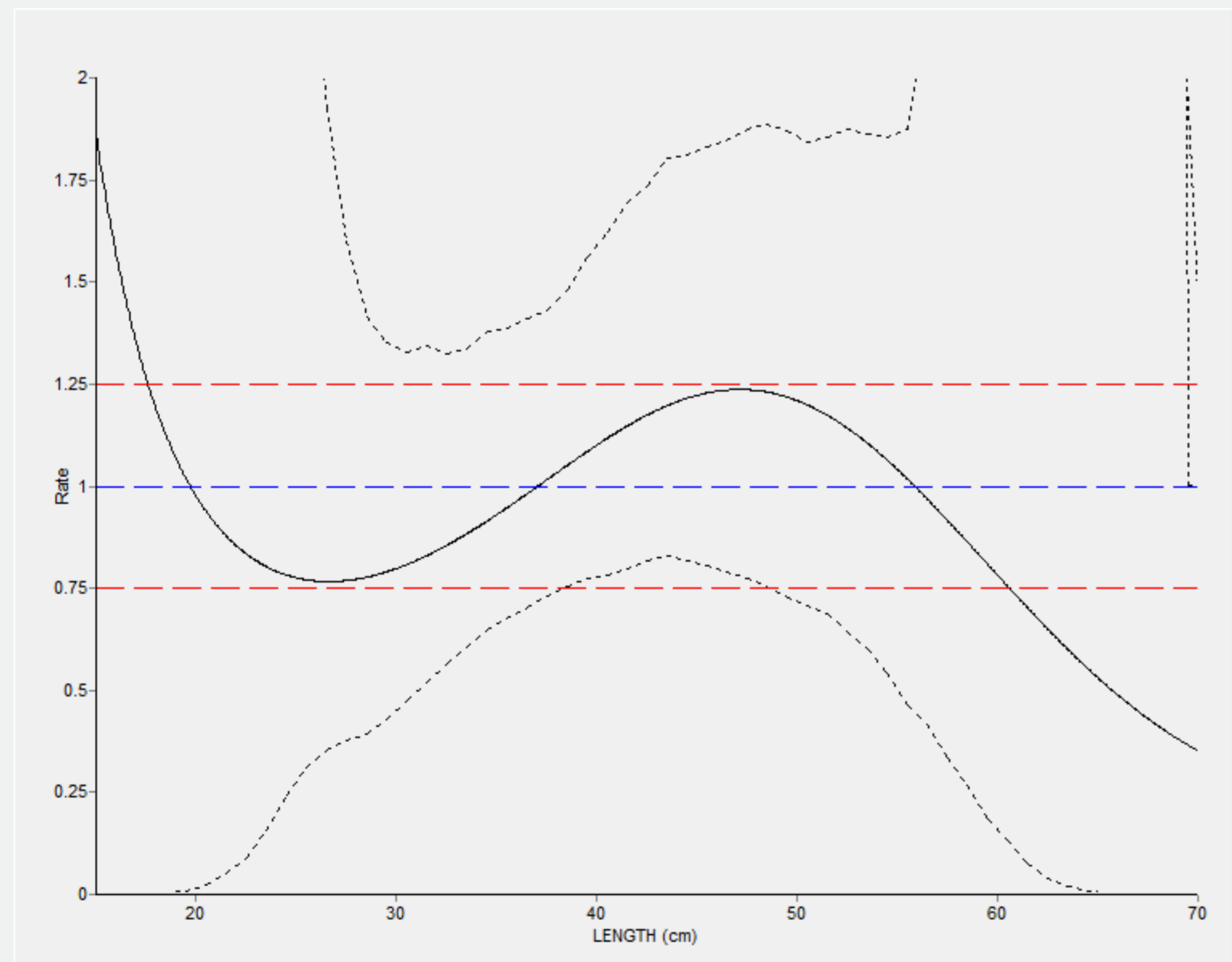
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Background

Under the Landing Obligation, the ability for fishermen to adjust the selectivity of their gears to suit the quotas which are available to them will be an important factor in determining the revenue in the fishery. As the combination of gear, fishing practice and quota shares will differ between vessels, changes to the selectivity of the gears will need to be implemented at the vessel level and based on the quotas which are available to the vessel at a given time. For this to be realised, simple and cost effective solutions which can be quickly coupled with existing gears will be in demand. These solutions will need to be implemented quickly in order for them to solve the issues at hand without losing substantial income. Furthermore, these solutions will need to be scientifically tested to document their effect before being considered for implementation into the legislation.



One of the vessels involved in the project, R 218 Judith Bechmann, together with its crew and scientists from DTU Aqua.



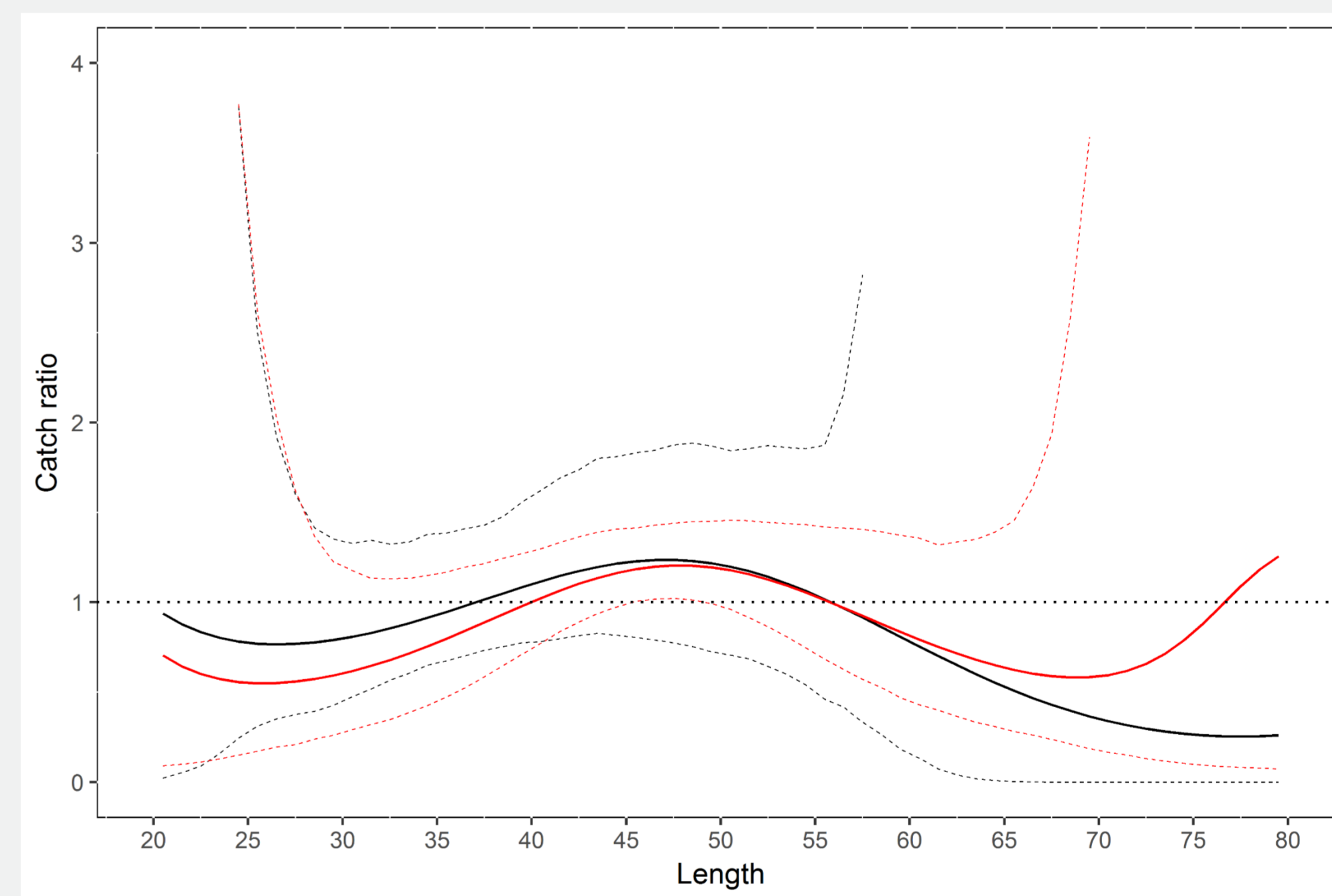
A catch ratio figure showing the preliminary results from the fishermen collected data. 550 cod measured. A value of 1.0 means both gears are fishing equal. A value of 1.25 means the new gear caught 25% more.

Aim of study

The Fast Track project aims to provide the industry with the possibility to develop and tested more selective gears. Fishermen, net makers etc., now have the possibility to develop and have their ideas tested under a framework which ensures the correct documentation is obtained to evaluate the gears performance.

Methods

1. An idea or issue is put forward to biologists at DTU Aqua and the Danish Fishermen's Association (DFPO).
2. The gear is developed (paid for by DTU Aqua) and exemption from the technical regulations is obtained.
3. The fishermen then has a period to test the gear and adjust it so it works optimally.
4. When the fishermen is satisfied with how the gear is performing he collects some data to evaluate the gears performance
5. If the results are positive, a scientific gear trial is carried out to collect the necessary data to present to managers.



A catch ratio figure showing the results from the preliminary and scientific trials. 5856 fish measured in the scientific trial.

Project results to date

- 9 vessels involved
- 9 gears developed
- 1 preliminary trial complete, 8 underway
- 5 different fisheries
- All Danish waters (North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat, Baltic Sea)
- 1 scientific trial complete

Do you have an idea you would like to test?

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Read more at www.fast-track.dk