



## 3years in the landing obligation in Europe: Where do we stand, what have we learnt?

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*Publication date:*  
2018

*Document Version*  
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link back to DTU Orbit](#)

*Citation (APA):*  
Ulrich, C. (2018). 3years in the landing obligation in Europe: Where do we stand, what have we learnt?. Paper presented at IIFET 2018, Seattle, United States.

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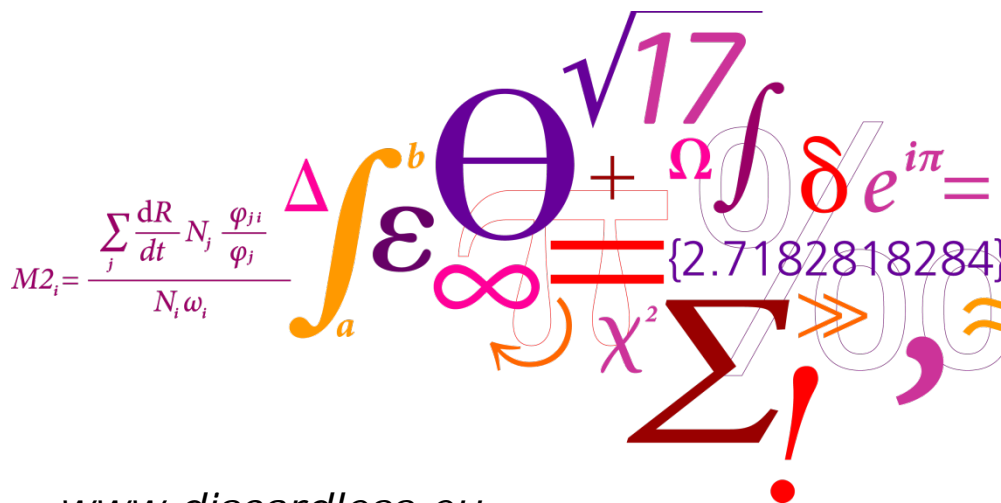
# 3 years in the landing obligation in Europe: Where do we stand, what have we learnt?

*H2020 DiscardLess (2015-2019)*

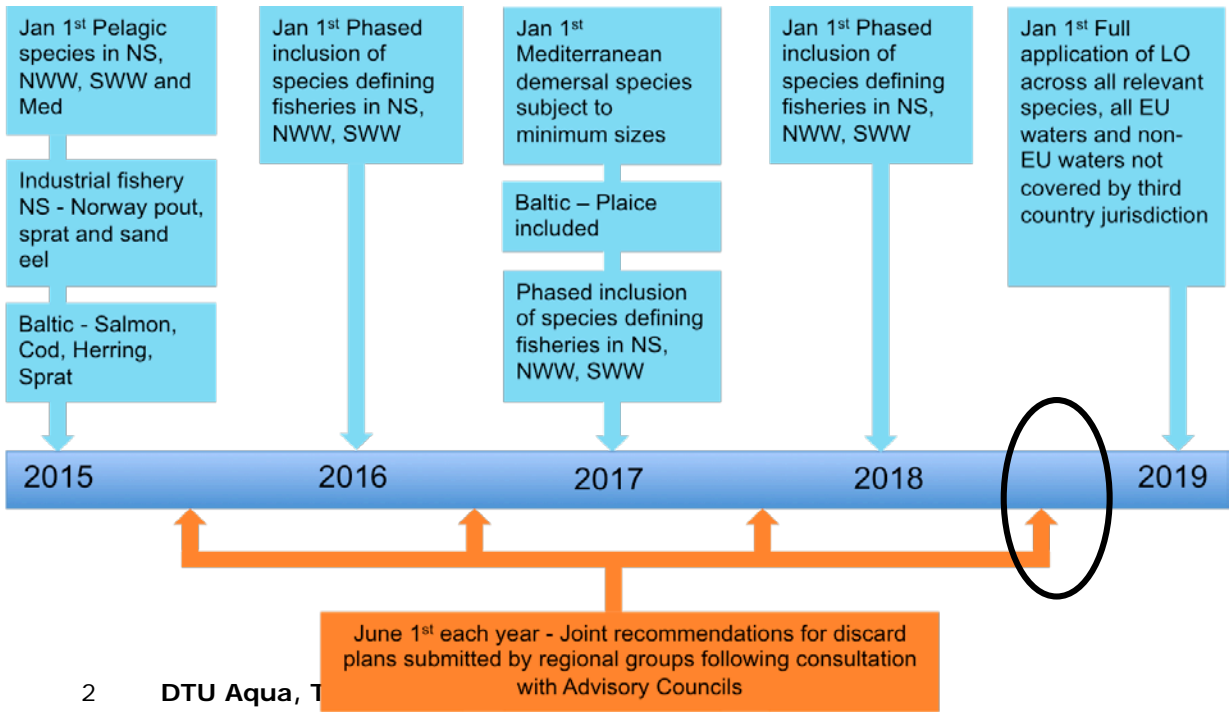
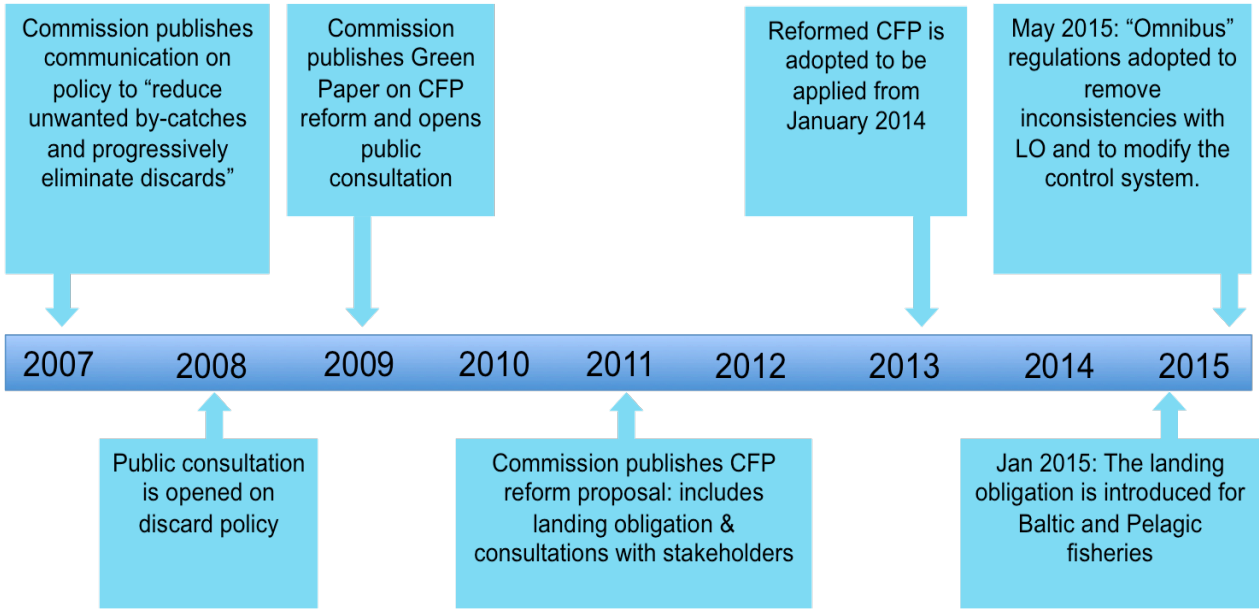
Pr. Clara Ulrich, DTU Aqua, Denmark, coordinator  
on behalf of the DiscardLess Consortium



DTU Aqua  
National Institute of Aquatic Resources



# The EU Landing Obligation



Preparation

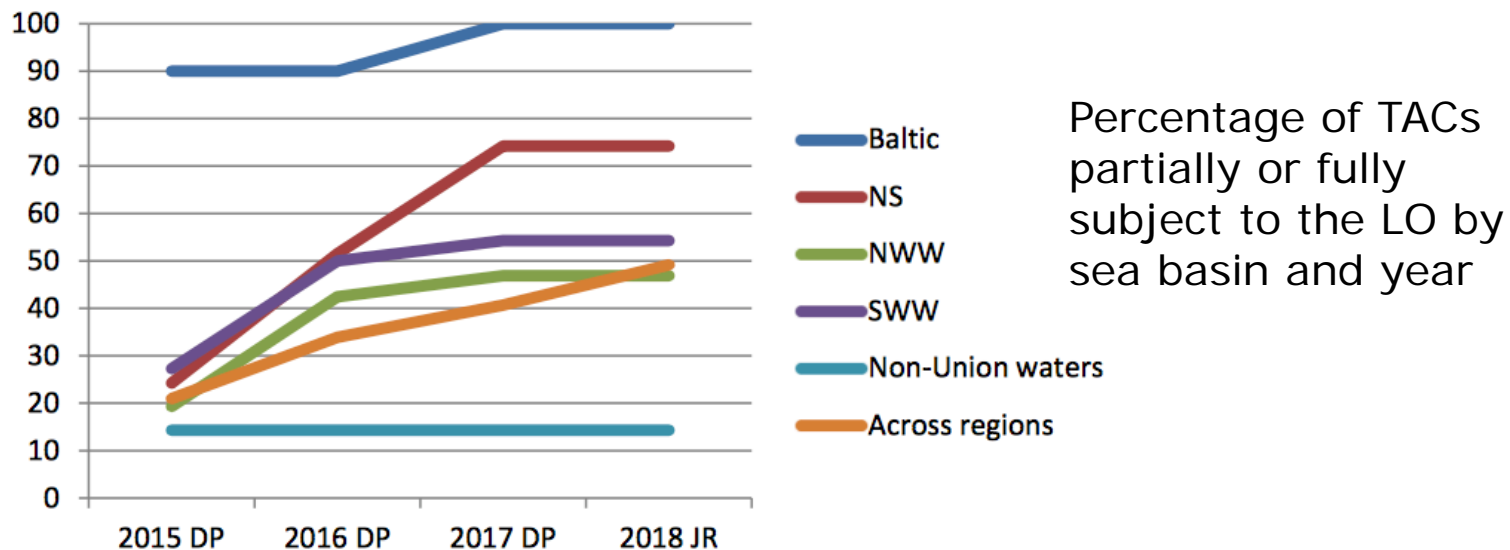
Implementation

*Fitzpatrick and Nielsen, 2016*

# Where do we stand in the middle of 2018?

## *Progresses on the regulatory side....*

- 19 Regional Discard Plans adopted since 2014, laying down the calendar of implementation (species\*fisheries) and the exemptions (high survivability, de minimis)



- A lot of progresses on scientific foundations for evaluation of plans and progresses (ICES, STECF) : exemptions, monitoring of undersize landings, member states reporting
- Changes in the control operations (“Last Haul” Eur. Fisheries Control Agency)

STECF PLEN 18-01, SWD/2018/329

# Where do we stand in the middle of 2018?

*Progresses on reaching common understandings on discard causes and choke species ....*

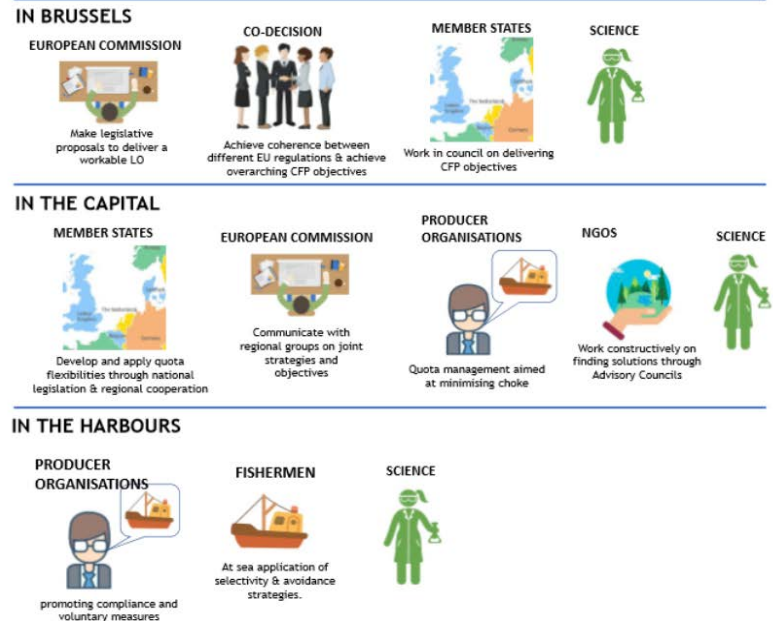
## Choke categories:

- Category 1: Sufficient quota at Member State level, **issue at PO/individual level**
- Category 2: Insufficient quota at Member State level, **relative stability issue**
- Category 3: Insufficient quota at EU level, **overfished stock**
- Category 4: Economic choking.



*Choke situation not observed yet! Only speculations on what may happen if the landing obligation is fully enforced*

### RESPONSIBILITIES PREVENTING CHOKES UNDER THE LANDING OBLIGATION



# Where do we stand in the middle of 2018?

## *But very little visible progresses so far....*

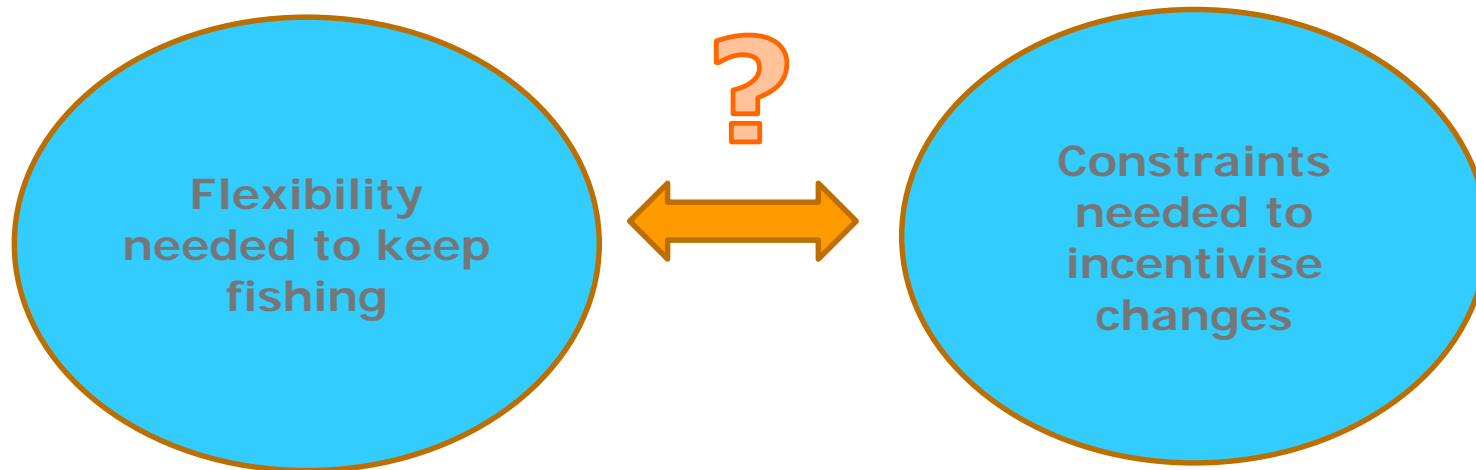
- Reported / Landed discards very low
- No obvious changes in selectivity/behaviour
- Very little use of EU operational funding (EMFF) allocated to landing obligation
- Still strong reluctance of the fishing industry

## *But also...*

- TAC increases ("top-ups") but discarding continues...
- Removal of TACs (dab and flounder)...
- Changes to prohibited species (dogfish)...
- MultiAnnual plans with Fmsy upper...
- Reduction in the number of stocks with MSY advice...

STECF PLEN 18-01, SWD/2018/329

# The landing obligation dilemma



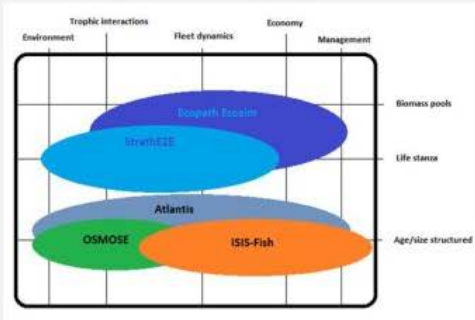
- Different approaches in different Member States

From STECF, 2018 and Fitzpatrick & Nielsen, 2018

# DiscardLess: What can Science do to help??

DiscardLess develops for example:

Models...



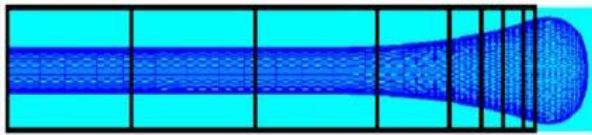
Exchanges with stakeholders and policymakers...



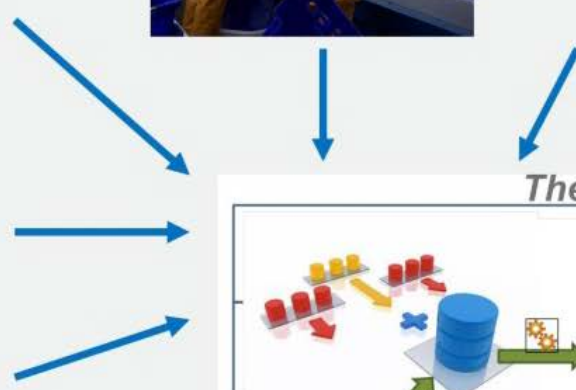
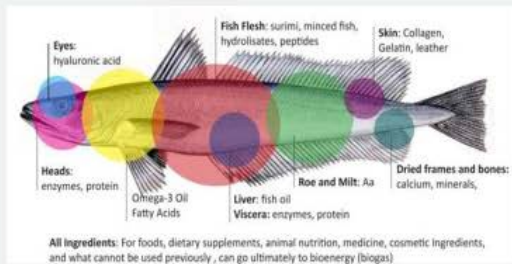
Economic data and scenarios...



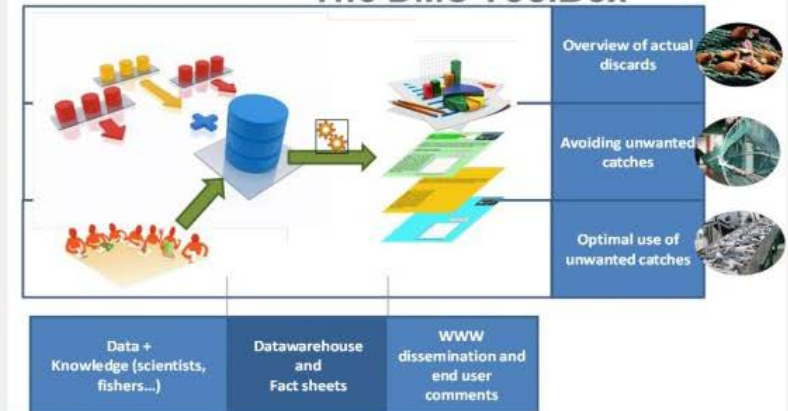
Technology...



Market analyses...



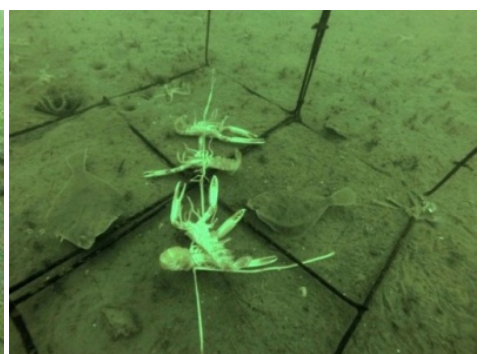
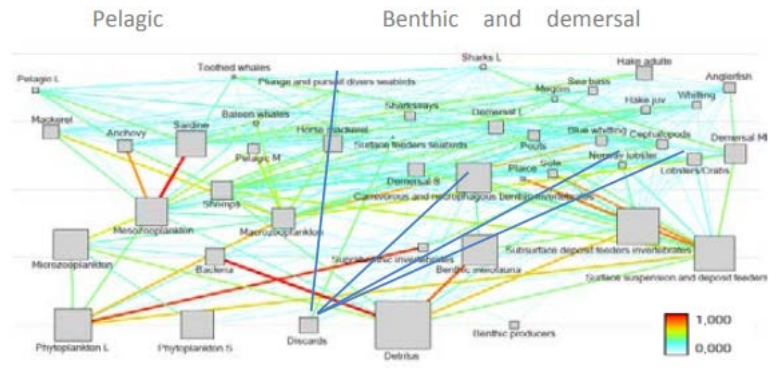
The DMS ToolBox



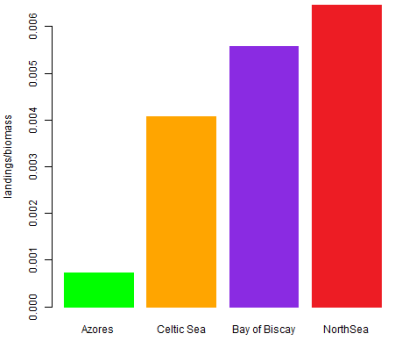


# Question 1: Is a discard ban good for the ecosystem?

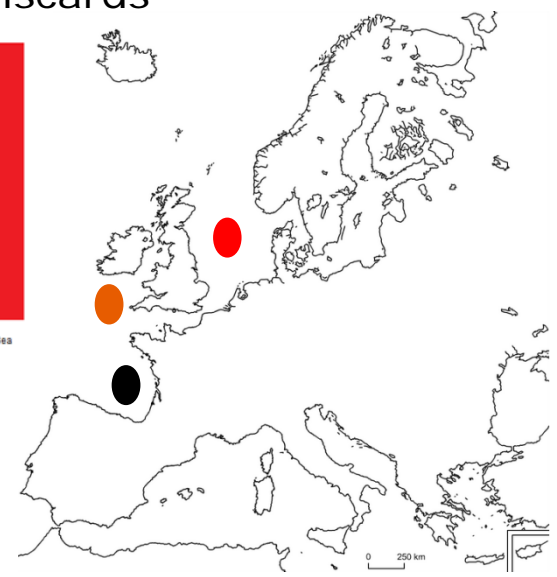
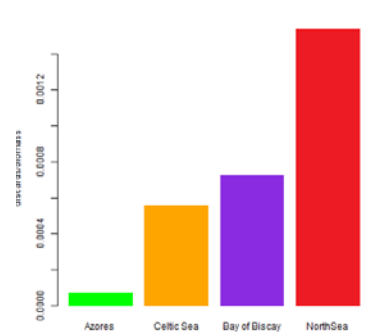
Lead: Marie Savina, IFREMER, France



Fishing pressure



Amount of discards



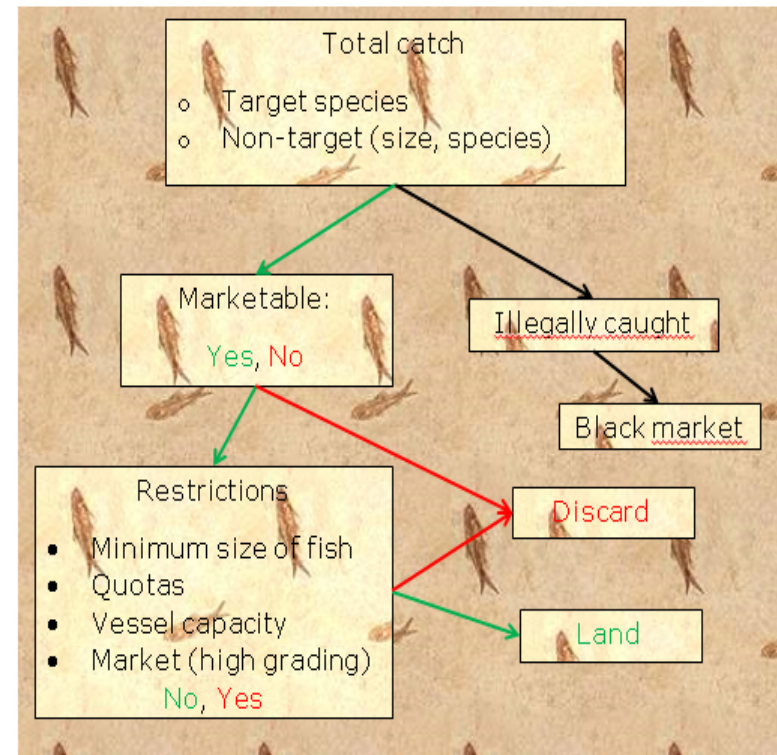
At **regional** scale:

- Seabirds most sensitive
- Foodweb effects beyond scavengers are limited
- Reduction in mortality is the largest ecological effect (achieving Fmsy!)
- Local effects are less well known

# Question 2: Can a discard ban be good for fishers?

*Lead: Peder Andersen & Ayeo Hoff, IFRO, Denmark / Katia Frangoudes, UBO, France*

- Bioeconomic models
- stakeholders interviews: fishers, administrators, EnvNGO's, auction houses, processing industries.
- Short-term economic impacts
- Negative view of the LO
- Incentives discussed

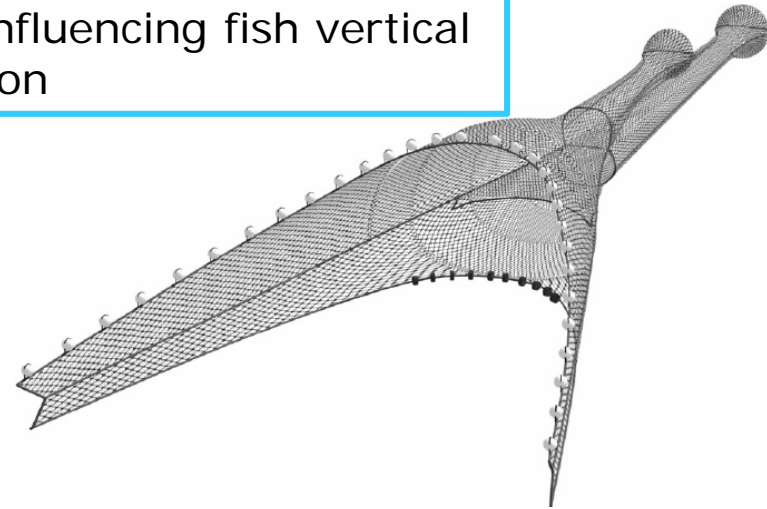


# Question 3: Rethinking gear selectivity

Lead: Barry O' Neill, DTU, DK

Selectivity catalogue, >60 factsheets,

Factors influencing fish vertical distribution

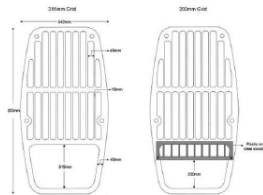


**using a flexible grid to reduce capture of haddock, whiting and haddock in a nephrops trawl**

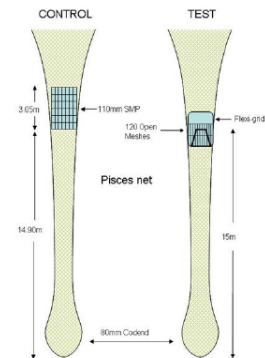
**TARGET SPECIES**  
Nephrops and mixed round and flatfish

**AREA, VESSEL**  
25 catch comparison hauls took place in the North Sea on board the FV Amity II PD 177 (21m, 400kW) during November 2012.

**GEAR MODIFICATION**  
A flexible grid with 45mm bar spacing and with bottom gaps of (i) 315mm and (ii) 200mm was fitted into the extension of a nephrops trawl



| Average % reduction |        |        |
|---------------------|--------|--------|
| grid                | 315 mm | 200 mm |
| Cod                 | 66     | 95     |
| Haddock             | 55     | 78     |
| Whiting             | 73     | 81     |
| Monkfish            | 76     | 84     |
| Saithe              | 87     | 98     |
| plaice              | 78     | 74     |
| Lemon sole          | 23     | 24     |
| Nephrops            | -3     | -1     |



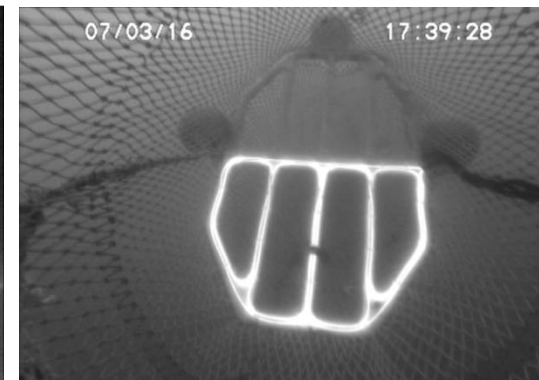
- RESULTS**
- there were no losses of haddock or whiting
  - fewer smaller cod (< 78 cm) were caught, but above 78 cm, there was no difference
  - monkfish catches were 16% less, but these were all small (< 55cm)
  - megrim catches were reduced by 43%

**FURTHER INFORMATION**  
Jim Drewery ([j.drewery@marlab.ac.uk](mailto:j.drewery@marlab.ac.uk))

marine scotland science



Ongoing analyses of the effects of light

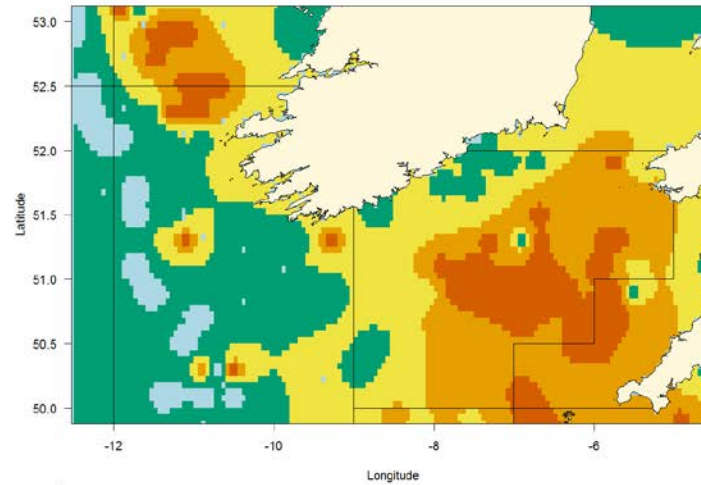
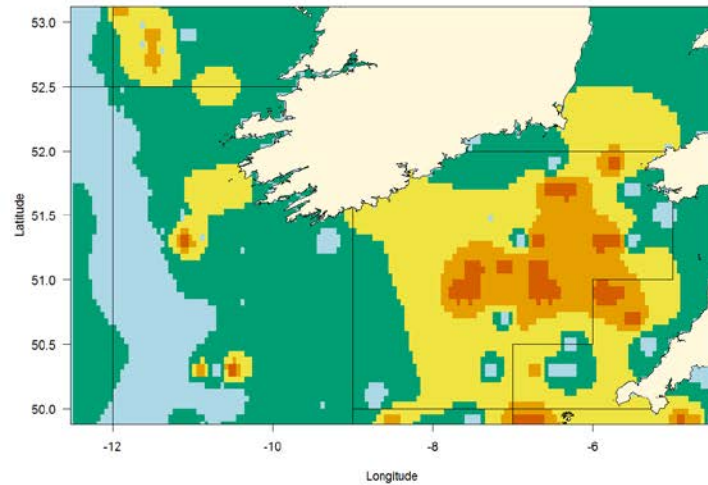


# Question 4: Reducing unwanted catches by changing when and where to fish

Lead: Dave Reid, MI, Ireland

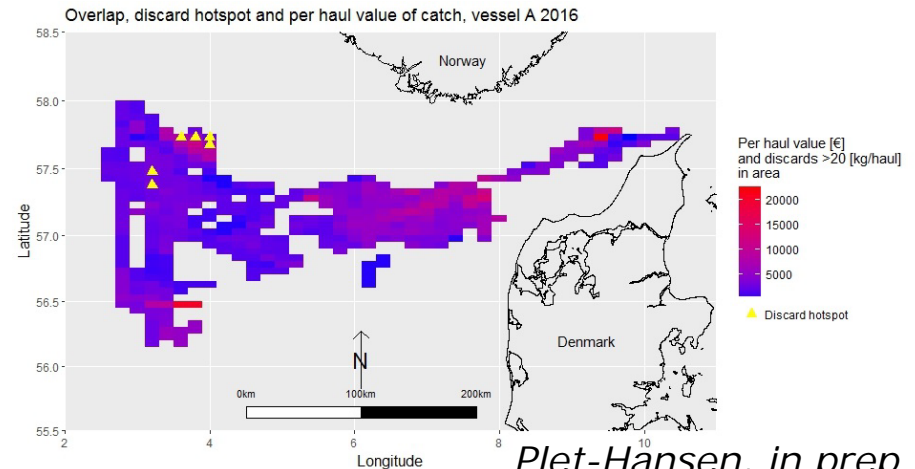
<MCRS

>MCRS



Legend  
MIN    MAX

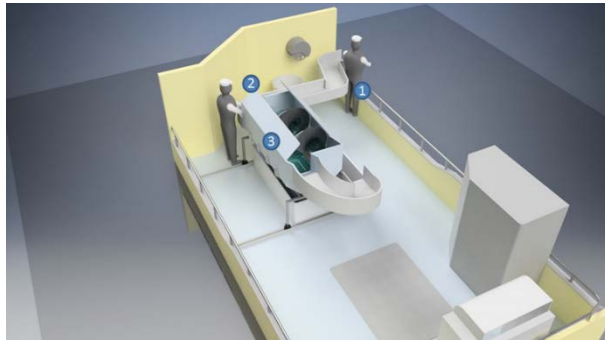
- Tentative prediction of "hot-spots"
- Real-time closures
- Is this useful to fishers?



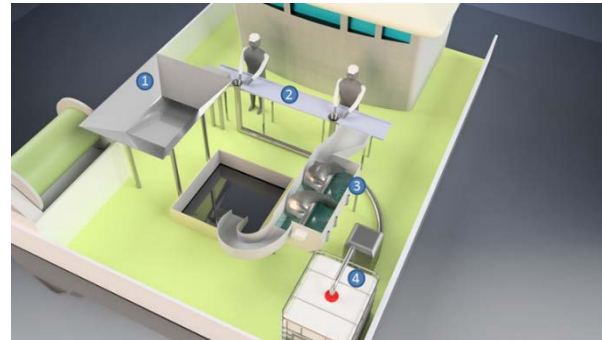
Plet-Hansen, in prep.

# Question 5. Onboard handling of unwanted catches

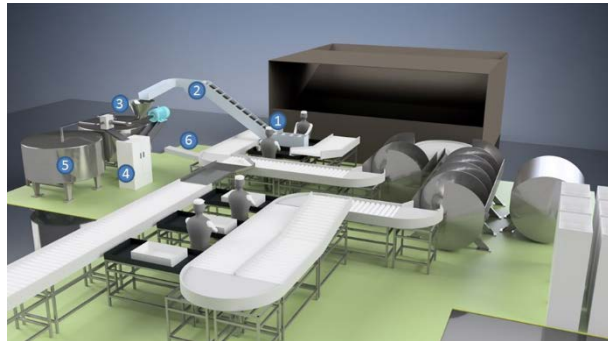
Lead: Jonas R. Viðarsson, MATIS, Iceland



Coastal Vessel 11m



Bottom trawler 23 m



Bottom trawler 39 m

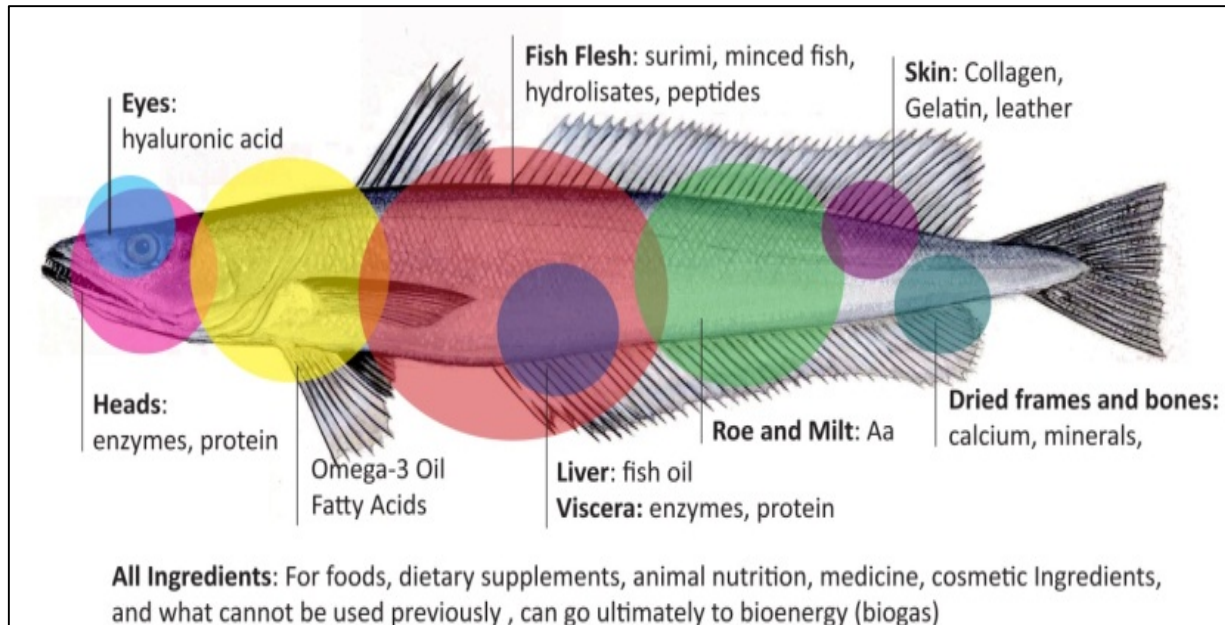


Large trawler 50 m

- Many options already exist... mainly for larger trawlers
- Investment Payback time estimated 1-2 years

# Question 6. Valorisation of unwanted catches

Lead: Begoña Perez Villareal, AZTI, Spain



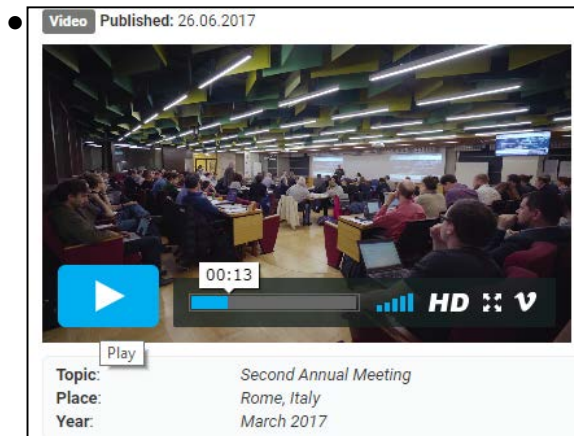
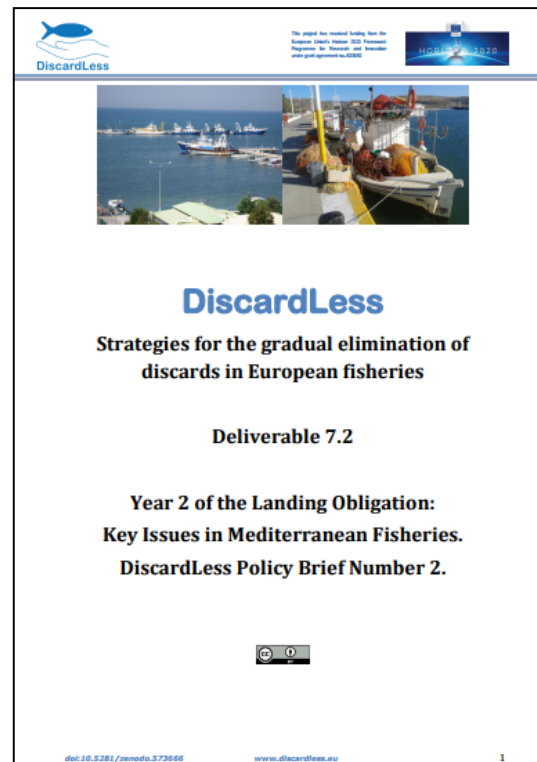
- More than 30 options identified for fish < MCRS
- Food, bio-products, feed, industrial uses, energy, agronomic uses
- Use of heads and visceras



# Question 7: Telling our stories

- Policy briefs
- Stakeholders interviews
- Scientific papers, opinion articles, videos, flyers, posters, newsletters

*Lead: Kåre Nolde Nielsen, UiT, Norway;  
Clara Ulrich, Denmark*



# What can Science do to help?

- Bringing information / discussing solutions
- Scientific support to discard reduction by
  - Analysing issues at EU, regional, national, fishery and individual levels
  - Making knowledge on existing options easily available and shared
  - Exploring new ideas, including technical feasibility, cost-benefits, ecological and economic sustainability, and controllability
- A lot of direct contacts and meetings across all areas and all types of stakeholders, analysis of incentives and reluctances
- Landing Obligation: There is no way back... but we are not there yet!





# The Book



[www.discardless.eu](http://www.discardless.eu)

40 kg box of discards

Lisa Borges, 2002