

Discards – new developments in 2010 as at 16 December 2010



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(the latest news is in red)**

New developments in 2008 and 2009 can be found at:
<http://www.seafish.org/b2b/subject.asp?p=325>

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For the view of a 16 year old on discards see:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9A689ISOZo4>

ELECTRONIC MONITORING/CATCH QUOTA MANAGEMENT

1. UK fights to end discards in deal with no winners. 15 December 2010.

The UK has secured an agreement to a complete review of the controversial cod recovery plan for 2011, including current days at sea restrictions, at the December Fisheries Council in Brussels today. During the meeting the UK also successfully fought for a 12 per cent increase in North Sea cod quota to allow expansion of the successful catch quota trials. Both deals will support our ongoing fight to stop perfectly edible fish being thrown overboard.

<http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/news/2010/12/15/fisheries-uk-deal/>

1. Scottish skippers offered discard reduction plan. 10 December 2010.

Fisheries Secretary Richard Lochhead has written to all eligible Scottish skippers to invite them to put forward an application to take part in the catch quota scheme. The number of vessels involved in the scheme is likely to increase from 17 to around 40. <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/12/10114535>

2. New EU-Norway fisheries agreement. 5 December 2010.

A new bi-lateral agreement between the EU and Norway on the management of shared fish stocks in the North Sea means Scottish fishermen will be able to land an extra 12% of the TAC for cod. This will allow doubling the number of boats participating in the catch quota scheme to around 40. Overall however cod quotas will fall 20%.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News?Releases/2010/12/06082715>

3. SFF calls for major innovation in fisheries regulations. 5 December 2010.

Comment from Bertie Armstrong: “The SFF has made it very clear from the beginning that without a fundamental overhaul of the single-species approach to mixed fisheries, catch quotas equate to a suicide pill: the potentially perfect compliance device applied to an unworkable set of rules.”

http://www.sff.co.uk/display_article.php?articleid=276

4. Third of fish ‘thrown back dead’. 29 November 2010.

Speaking ahead of negotiations to set 2011 EU fishing quotas Richard Lochhead, Scotland’s Fisheries Secretary said that in 2009 28,000 tonnes of fish was discarded. This was valued at £33 million. This was out of a total catch of 88,000 tonnes valued at £101 million). He said it was time to call for an extension of the catch quota trial.

http://scotland.wwf.org.uk/wwf_articles.cfm?unewsid=4434 (not on Marine Scotland website)

5. Ardoe Declaration. 1 October 2010.

FISHING Ministers from across the North Sea region have called for fundamental changes to fisheries management, including measures taken in Scotland to reduce fish discards. Scottish Fisheries Secretary Richard Lochhead hosted a conference of ministers and officials from around the North Sea in Aberdeen on 1

October at Ardoe House Hotel, which explored how fish discards could be tackled and the need for greater regionalisation of fisheries management.

The Declaration states:

In the light of the Joint Statement signed by Ministers from Denmark, Germany, the UK and Scotland in Aalborg in October 2009, we welcome the trialling in 2010 by the EU of fully documented fisheries aimed at reducing the level of discards and optimising the revenue secured from the harvesting of our shared resource. Such approaches provide an opportunity to integrate information provided by fishermen into management advice and to encourage the fishing industry to take greater responsibility for sustainable management of resources.

Experience of Norwegian fisheries and the trialling by the EU of catch quota management from 2008 to 2010 indicate that management approaches based on the reduction or elimination of discards can provide benefits to stocks and to the industry.

<http://www.fishnewseu.com/latest-news/scottish/4386-ministers-commit-to-reduce-discards-in-ardoe-declaration.html>

6. Interim paper from the Scottish Government about its Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) catch quota scheme. 28 September 2010.

Whilst the trial is at an early stage, there seems to be nothing significant to indicate that this system cannot provide the necessary confidence to managers and industry alike to run catch quota arrangements aligned to no discard schemes. There is sufficient confidence in its application and potential to engage with industry on the design and expectation for an expanded scheme for 2011. This engagement will inform Marine Scotland's negotiations at EU-Norway and December Council. A fuller detailed assessment of the 2010 trial will commence at the end of 2010 and be published early 2011.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/Sea-Fisheries/17681/CQSinterimreport>

7. Scottish Government Catch Quota Scheme Forward Look Document. 30 September 2010. Key points:

- Only a small number of candidate stocks that would be suitable for catch quota management in the North Sea. These are: cod, haddock, whiting and plaice, which make up a significant proportion of all catches.
- Initial signs from the trials suggests this scheme provides a clear and strong economic driver which brings about behavioural changes (spatial, selectivity, diversification) in fishermen. They are clearly incentivised to fish in a way that optimises their catch.
- In England, discard reduction trials and monitoring have enabled us to estimate our national discard rate for some of our other fisheries. In this circumstance we have sought and received STECF approval for operating a limited catch quota pilot in the 7e sole fishery. We intend to operate this trial in 2011.

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- The UK does not propose introducing this on a mandatory basis. Rather it proposes that it should remain voluntary, with additional allocated fish only accessible by participating vessels. At present, the scheme is likely to be more applicable to TR1 vessels than vessels whose target species is nephrops, but we do not propose restricting access to the scheme.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/Sea-Fisheries/17681/CQSforwardlook>

8. English North Sea pilot catch quota scheme. Interim report. September 2010.

CEFAS has published a report on the progress of the English North Sea pilot catch quota scheme 2010. **This report has now been uploaded to the CEFAS website.** The key findings are:

- All six participant of the English trial have demonstrated evidence of behaviour change to avoid capturing small cod and discarding of cod has been low (currently 4 vessels have been fully analysed, with discard rates of <1%, 1%, 7%, <1%).
- The recorded crew data, observer data and REM data show good correlations and Cefas project workers support the view that the scheme is reducing discards and encouraging more selective fishing practices.
- Cefas have identified a number of improvements that could be made to address current weaknesses of the scheme. They have also noted other potential uses of REM technology, these include; a solution to misreporting by area, health and safety issues - such as collisions at sea, and the monitoring of cetacean and bird interactions.

[http://www.cefas.co.uk/media/434085/english%20catch%20quota%20interim%20report%20\(v%203\)%20sept%202010.pdf](http://www.cefas.co.uk/media/434085/english%20catch%20quota%20interim%20report%20(v%203)%20sept%202010.pdf)

9. Major battle ahead to secure quota scheme, says Lochhead. 23 September 2010.

The catch quota system has been operating with a fleet of around 19 camera-equipped Scottish boats and has involved additional cod quota and days at sea awarded to these vessels in return for an end to cod discards. The Scottish Government want to see the scheme extended and widened next year.

<http://www.fishnewseu.com/latest-news/scottish/4305-major-battle-ahead-to-secure-quota-scheme-says-lochhead.html>

10. A Guide to Catch-Quota Management (CQM). August 2010.

This draft working paper seeks to outline a generally applicable guide for Member States' implementation of a fully documented CQM. It is based on Commission/Council declarations, TAC/Quota regulation 219/2010, the Commission request to Member States to report on CQM implementation and on the notifications on CQM management forwarded by DK and UK to the Commission.

http://www.fvm.dk/Admin/Public/DWSDownload.aspx?File=%2fFiles%2fFiler%2fEnglish%2fFisheries%2fCQM_Guide_Rev1.pdf

11. Comment by Mogens Schou, Advisor to the Danish Minister of Fisheries (re article about Norway in European Voice). 24 June 2010.

Discard bans are difficult to enforce. Even Norway being a single management authority with a much less complex fishery than EU cannot uphold an effective ban. To Denmark, UK/Scotland and Germany the solution is to incentivise fishermen to account for all they catch (including discards) by allowing them increased catch quotas - instead of the present landing quotas, and require that they document total removal by camera. This will exchange the incentive to optimise the value of the landed fish by discarding less valuable fish with the incentive to fish selectively to optimize the value of the total catch. The DK/UK/Scottish/German joint declaration on this, and the concrete results obtained in fully documented fishery can be found at <http://www.fvm.dk/yieldoffish>

12. Catch quota project in the North Sea. Summer 2010.

The Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science (Cefas) is running a pilot project investigating the use of catch quotas to reduce discards in the North Sea. Cefas fisheries observers and remote electronic monitoring (REM) equipment, including CCTV, is being used to document and quantify the effectiveness of the catch quota system at reducing discards.

The pilot was open to all English vessels which fish for cod in the North Sea and are in a producer organisation. There's a parallel scheme in Scotland, and in total 27 UK vessels are in the trial. The catch quota pilot for North Sea cod began on 1 May 2010 and will continue until 31 December 2010. In the North Sea cod trial, fishermen were given up to 30% more cod quota. All the cod they catch counts against this quota, and once the quota is reached, fishing activity for cod must stop. In this way, the fishermen can land more of what they catch, but stock mortality isn't affected. The Defra scheme is to count all fish against quota, regardless of size and marketability. There are six vessels in the trial.

The pilot project aims to see whether this is a useful tool to manage fish stocks, reduce discards, and maximise returns for fishermen in the future. It will also improve scientific data, and provide evidence on whether this system is a suitable option to pursue for reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. The results are expected in spring 2011.

Defra: The purpose of the project is to assess the ability of a catch-quota system to reduce discards, reduce stock mortality, and see if the system encourages fishermen to fish more selectively. The pilot will also assess the ability of Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) technology to verify a catch-quota system and provide improved scientific data. This trial of a fully documented catch-quota system will provide useful evidence on whether the system is a suitable option to pursue for CFP reform in 2012.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/fisheries/documents/fisheries/fishfocus18.pdf>
<http://www.cefas.co.uk/media/139192/catch-quota-pilot-with-rem-terms-and-conditions.pdf>

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http://www.nffo.org.uk/news/industry_q_a.html

13. Cod Catch Quota Scheme (CCQS) in Scotland. June 2010.

In June 2010 Marine Scotland introduced a voluntary pilot Cod Catch Quota Scheme (CCQS), where participating vessels must retain on board and land all cod that is caught, regardless of size and marketability. Those participating in the Catch Quota Scheme are now operating a fully documented fishery for cod. 17 boats are taking part.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/Sea-Fisheries/17681/catchquota>

14. Lochhead hears of gathering storm facing catching sector. 26 Aug 2010.

SCOTTISH Fisheries Minister Richard Lochhead has been made aware in the “starkest possible terms” of the mounting crisis facing fishermen. This was made plain today by Scottish Fishermen’s Federation President Alan Coghill in the wake of a meeting with the Minister yesterday in Aberdeen.

In a statement Mr Coghill added: “There are current ongoing trials with catch quotas, and while this is an option worth further consideration, there are misgivings about their potential in some parts of the industry. For this reason, the Scottish Government are preparing a performance report on current catch quota trials of fully documented fishing. A programme of meetings with the broader industry around a variety of ports will then follow.”

The Federation explains that a catch quota is a quota that accounts for the mortality of all fish caught, rather than just fish landed at port, and the aim is to eliminate discards. As well as fighting hard to avoid any further tightening of the days-at-sea screw, the federation are only too well aware that a number of key white fish quotas are running out fast as far as some of the leading fish producer organisations are concerned, posing major question marks over just how long a fishing year and therefore fishermen’s incomes, can be eked out.

<http://www.fishnewseu.com/latest-news/scottish/4146-lochhead-hears-of-gathering-storm-facing-catching-sector.html>

http://www.sff.co.uk/display_article.php?articleid=250

15. Results based management – the way to fishing without discards. Presentation by Mogens Schou, Advisor to the Danish Minister of Fisheries. May 2010.

70 vessels in England, Denmark, Germany, Holland, Scotland and Sweden with camera documentation in 2010.

<http://www.fvm.dk/Admin/Public/DWSDownload.aspx?File=%2fFiles%2fFiler%2fEnglish%2fFisheries%2fNon-discarding-fishery-Baltic-Sea-2020.pdf>

16. Seafish fact sheet. May 2010.

This fact sheet presents the key details on a new and developing electronic fisheries monitoring tool - onboard video cameras.

http://www.seafish.org/pdf.pl?file=seafish/Documents/FS48_05_10_ElectronicMonitoring.pdf

17. Fishing Expo 2010 in Glasgow. 21 May 2010.

Fisheries Secretary Richard Lochhead set out his priorities and thinking on the challenges currently facing the industry. "Our innovative catch quota trial has been rolled out to another 21 vessels. We will work to secure full catch quota opportunities for our fleet and make them exempt from days at sea restrictions."

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/05/21123515>

18. Danish proposals for all catches to count against quota. January 2010.

Danish Minister of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Eva Kjer Hansen says that the results of the camera monitoring support the Danish proposals for the future European Common Fisheries Policy. Denmark is asking that the EU Fisheries Council allow from January 2010 a voluntary scheme for Danish fishermen that would require all catches of fish to count against their quota. The scheme would require fishermen to have observers or cameras on board their vessels to show that they are not discarding fish. In exchange for catching less fish they would be allowed to land more.

"The catch quota method ensures that all fish caught is counted against the quota. Writing off everything that is caught on the boat against the quota will reduce the motivation to discard small fish and induce an incentive to fish selectively."

<http://www.intrafish.no/>

19. EU/Norway bilateral agreement 26 January 2010

The EU and Norway reached agreement on reciprocal fishing possibilities for 2010 in January which includes a **new incentive scheme to encourage a reduction in discards of cod.**

The EU delegation described trials on fully documented fisheries undertaken by Member States during 2009. This initiative makes use of closed circuit television cameras (CCTV), associated to a system of sensors, that record all fishing and processing activities, on board the vessels. The participating fishermen were obliged to count all catches of cod against their quotas, including those fish that were below minimum landing size and which could not therefore be sold.

In order to compensate for the loss of income that this represented, the participating vessels were given access to an additional quota of cod. This created an incentive for fishermen to avoid areas of small cod, in order to maximise the values of their available quota. The results showed that discards were reduced.

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The EU delegation considered that the scheme represented an important initiative that should be encouraged since it would contribute to a behavioural change in fishing practices, which in turn would contribute towards the reduction and eventual elimination of discards. The EU Delegation proposed that a more extensive trial should be undertaken for a period of one year under the following conditions:

- An additional 5% of the EU share of the cod TAC would be made available to Member States participating in the Scheme, which meets the parameters outlined in this paragraph.
- The increase in any individual vessel quota allocation would be limited to around 30%, or at a level that would ensure that there is a net decrease in total removals.
- As a rule, the Norwegian delegation considered that additions to the TAC should be avoided. However they could accept the scheme under the conditions described above.

Norway confirmed it will add 5% to its share of the TAC.

<http://www.regjeringen.no/upload/FKD/Vedlegg/Kvoteavtaler/2010/EU/fiskeriavtale%20Norge%20EU.pdf>

20. Debate on the use of CCTV – Oct 2009 to Jan 2010

Onboard CCTV cameras could be acceptable to some groups – providing the incentives were high enough. Fishing News 22 January 2010/CCTV debate – NNFO website. 11 January 2010 http://www.nffo.org.uk/news/cctv_debate.html/ Divisions over CCTV cameras/Full coverage catch quota: Opportunity or threat? Fishing News 8 January 2010/Do not rush into CCTV cameras/Scots split over on board CCTV cameras. Fishing News 16 Oct 2009/Onboard cameras cut discards/Video data collected 'highly accurate.' Fishing News International Oct 2009/Fishing leaders have called for more talks between the Scottish Government and industry on the use of CCTV on boats. <http://news.stv.tv/scotland/north/121540-cctv-on-fishing-boats-hailed-success-in-denmark/>

SCOTLAND

1. Funding of £243,000 awarded to five projects working to enhance the conservation credentials of Scotland's fishing sector. 20 May 2010.

Marine Scotland has allocated the Scottish Industry/Science Partnership (SISP) funding for projects covering the Firth of Forth, Western Isles, east coast, west coast and the northern North Sea.

Two focus on issues surrounding discards:

- £50,000 will go towards trials of coverless and low headline trawls aimed at reducing whitefish catches in *Nephrops* fisheries. The trials will take place on fisheries in both the east and west coasts and will involve the Anglo Scottish Fishermen's Association, Scottish Whitefish Producers Association and Mallaig and North West Fishermen's Association.
- £14,000 in the Western Isles to look at the effects of mesh size and escape panels on catch composition in the *Nephrops* creel fishery.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/05/20101527>

2. Scottish talks in Brussels. 22 March 2010

Scotland's leadership on the European stage was highlighted during two high-level meetings held by Rural Affairs Secretary Richard Lochhead with Maria Damanaki, the new EU Fisheries and Maritime Affairs Commissioner.

Speaking after the talks, Mr Lochhead said:

"It was important to meet with the Commissioner to explain the importance of fishing to Scotland, highlight our strong views on the broken Common Fisheries Policy, and set out our proactive ideas for change which have made others in Europe sit up and take notice.

"We discussed the issue of days at sea, the difficulties faced by the West of Scotland, the need for a level playing field and other pressing issues. Of course we could do so much more for our fishermen if we had our own voice in Europe, which is why we hope to give the people of Scotland their say on the constitutional future by introducing a Referendum Bill later this year."

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/03/19114653>

3. Scottish Euro MP calls for over-quota catches to be caught. 8 Mar 2010.

Conservative MEP for Scotland, Struan Stevenson has called for the £40million of dead fish Scots fishermen are forced to dump at sea to be turned into animal 'super food'. Over-quota catches should be landed and turned into Omega-3 rich fish oil and fishmeal for use as animal feed, particularly in fish farming.

"The problem of discards, which sees Europe's fishermen dumping over one million tonnes of healthy fish each year, dead, back into the sea, is scandalous. I think we have an ideal opportunity here to use immature or out-of-quota fish for

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processing into fishmeal and fish oil, thus avoiding the horrendous waste and environmental pollution involved in their wanton dumping overboard.”

Mr Stevenson added that the processing sector have already stated their willingness to compensate fishermen for over-quota fish at a rate that was not so attractive it would encourage targeting of particular species, but attractive enough to discourage dumping.

http://www.fishupdate.com/news/fullstory.php/aid/13247/Turn_1m_tonnes_of_dumped_fish_into_91super_food_92.html

Conservation Credits II

1. Lib Dems warn Conservation Credits Scheme ‘not delivering’. 11 June 2010.

LIBERAL Democrat fisheries spokesman, Liam McArthur warned Fisheries Minister Richard Lochhead about the difficulties fishermen were having with the Conservation Credits Scheme which, he said, was not delivering the help fishermen need.

Following the exchange at Question Time in the Scottish Parliament, Mr McArthur said: “There is growing concern in the Scottish fishing industry at the way in which the Conservation Credits Scheme is operating. Cuts in days at sea that have been backdated to earlier in the year will present serious difficulties for many of the fleet.

“This scheme was intended to offer credit to fishermen for initiatives brought forward and delivered in partnership in the interests of securing a viable future for our industry. The problems that are emerging risk undermining industry confidence in this process.

<http://www.fishnewseu.com/latest-news/scottish/3675.html>

2. Moving into 2010

The Conservation Credits Scheme was launched in February 2008. This landmark scheme rewards Scottish fishermen with extra days at sea when they sign up to initiatives which have an appreciable impact on the conservation of fragile fish stocks. Conservation Credits II is a development of the Conservation Credits Scheme piloted in 2008. The scheme provides alternatives to the European Commission's proposal for a 25 per cent reduction in days at sea, giving the majority of Scottish vessels the opportunity to fish for the same number of days as they fished in 2008.

Full details of the voluntary closure scheme arrangements for 2010 are as follows:

- A minimum of 40 cod per hours fishing effort will indicate a high abundance.

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- There will be a maximum level of 9 closures (plus 3 extra in the event of a positive sample) set at any one time. Closed Area (CA) will be a maximum of 50 square miles.
- Any closed area will be defined by a maximum of 6 points.
- There will be no closed areas within the 12 mile zone unless exceptional circumstances for doing so exist
- Each closure will be as a result of 1 positive sample (over 40 Cod per hour) or defined by landing per unit effort data when sampling is not possible
- Closures will last for a fixed period of 21 days after which the area will automatically re-open.
- In seeking to address commercial impact concerns raised by the industry we will introduce Commercial Impact Zones (CIZ). There can be no more than 3 closed areas within any CIZ.
- Commercial Impact Zones will be 25 miles in radius.
- A voluntary scheme with no enforcement action to be taken, other than loss of benefit gained from participation in the Conservation Credits Scheme.
- Other UK administrations and other member states will be advised of closures and vessels encouraged to observe them.
- Industry will be encouraged to notify the existence for information purposes where they have encountered high numbers of undersized cod. Tel: +44(0)131-271-9700, Fax: +44(0)131-244-6471 and Email: UKFCC@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
- Sampling will be undertaken by the SFPA and independent observers.
- FRS observers shall seek the permission of the vessel master before any notifications are made.

Seasonal closures in 2010

- The Long Hole seasonal closure was announced in a management letter of 29 October 2008.
- There will be 3 further closures seasonal closures along the same lines as 2009, namely at Pappa Bank (from 15 January to 15 March), the Coral Edge (from 15 January to 28 February) and the Stanhope Ground (from 21 February to 30 April). In all three cases and unlike the Long Hole these areas will be automatically re-opened.
- Finally, there is one additional seasonal closure for 2010 which sees the entire Norwegian Zone closed for the month of January. The area will automatically re-open on 1st February 2010. Please note that for the duration of the Norwegian Zone closure the maximum total number of Real Time Closures in place at any one time will be reduced from 9 to 7. However as is currently the case the scope remains for 3 additional closures when positive samples are taken.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/realtimenclosures>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/Fisheries/Sea-Fisheries/COMPLIANCE/closures>

Gear technology trials in Scotland

1. Scottish Industry/Science Partnership (SISP). 2009/2010 programme.

Marine Scotland is funding research ideas to enhance the existing cooperation between the Scottish catching sector and fisheries science providers.

<http://www.frs-scotland.gov.uk/Delivery/standaloneM.aspx?contentid=2095>

SISP Project 003/09. Report 03/10.

West coast fishery trials of a twin-rig *Nephrops* trawl incorporating a large mesh top sheet for reducing commercial gadoid species by-catch especially cod and haddock.

The project trialled a modified trawl where the top-sheet extending into the taper is replaced with wide mesh (240 mm). Twin-rig tows were made comparing the performance of the modified net with a standard net incorporating a 120 mm square mesh release panel. The gear modification tested did not appear to have a beneficial impact on gadoid species by-catch. For whiting and hake the test net seemed to catch more smaller fish. Plus cuckoo, blond and thornback ray and common skate were caught on most hauls. The *Nephrops* catch was not affected. Although the use of a large mesh in the topsheet did not appear to confer much conservation advantage in terms of reducing by-catch, it may reduce drag and therefore fuel consumption.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/295194/0101164.pdf>

SISP Project 004/09. Report 01/10.

Trials to reduce cod by-catches in Shetland mixed demersal whitefish trawl fisheries by putting large meshes (300 and 600mm) in the front portion of a commercial trawl.

During 2009 experimental trials were conducted to assess the extent to which cod by-catches in the Shetland mixed whitefish fishery would be reduced by replacing the 120mm netting in the front sections of a trawl with 300 and 600mm netting. A further aim was to assess the effect of these modified trawls on the catches of monkfish and megrim, which are economically important to the Shetland fleet.

The results showed that both test gears caught significantly fewer cod, hake, megrim and ling than the control trawl across all length classes and significantly fewer monkfish below 76 and 83cm respectively than the control trawl. The 300mm trawl caught significantly more haddock than the other trawls and catches of saithe greater than 53cm were reduced in both test gears.

http://www.frs-scotland.gov.uk/FRS.Web/Uploads/Documents/SISP01_10.pdf

ENGLAND/WALES/NORTHERN & SOUTHERN IRELAND

Gear technology trials in England, Wales, Northern and Southern Ireland

1. CEFAS 2010/2011 Fisheries Science Partnership Project.

[http://www.cefass.co.uk/data/fisheries-science-partnership-\(fsp\)/20102011-programme.aspx](http://www.cefass.co.uk/data/fisheries-science-partnership-(fsp)/20102011-programme.aspx)

This programme is the final year in the latest three-year commitment of Defra to the FSP initiative, and a further £1m has been allocated for the year. The agreed new one-off projects that focus on discards are:

- **Project 17. Square mesh panels trials on twin/multi rig working inshore grounds in the northern Thames Estuary**

Purpose: To investigate the potential of more selective/environmentally friendly fishing methods by fitting square mesh panels to 80mm otter trawls, (i.e modified trawl design) to reduce discard rates of fish and benthos in the northern Thames Estuary.

Timing: June - October 2010.

<http://www.cefass.co.uk/media/138454/smp-on-twin-or-multi-rig-itt.pdf>

- **Project 19. Bristol Channel 100mm cod end trials**

Purpose: To understand the effects on landings and discards of moving to a 100 mm mesh cod-end compared with a standard 80mm cod end.

Timing: June - October 2010.

<http://www.cefass.co.uk/media/138514/bristol-channel-100m-cod-end-trials-itt.pdf>

- **Project 20. Cornwall red mullet gill net fishery discard reduction**

Purpose: To look at the capture of red mullet, and associated species, with different mesh sizes of gill nets. A range of nets will be used within the range 50 - 80mm and made into identical fleets to help determine the desirable net size to reduce the number of discards.

Timing: June - October 2010.

<http://www.cefass.co.uk/media/138544/red-mullet-gill-net-fishery-discard-reduction-itt.pdf>

- **Project 21. Modified commercial trawl survey**

Purpose: To know more about the behaviour of cod and other fish as they enter the net by modifying a standard NE coast trawl to hold two separator panels running the entire length of the net. A series of hauls will be undertaken to see where cod and the other fish are captured in the net. This will lead to better designs of cod avoidance gears.

Timing: June - August 2010.

<http://www.cefass.co.uk/media/138574/modified-commercial-trawl-survey-itt.pdf>

2. Collaborative project between Seafish, CEFAS & Marine Scotland, Aberdeen.

The aim of this project is to propose, design and trial experimental modifications to a demersal trawl that will provide an indication where and how the different fish species are entering the mouth of the trawl. This will give fisheries scientists a better understanding of the fish behaviour when they encounter a trawl enabling

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them to fit selective devices in the most effective positions for the particular species. This in turn should allow modifications to the design of commercial demersal trawls to make them more species selective. For further information E: t_rossiter@cefas.co.uk

3. Project 50% (Reducing discards in Devon beam trawl fleet) 2009/2010.

An innovative partnership between scientists and the Devon beam trawler fleet aimed at helping to protect fish stocks, has led to skippers reducing the amount of juvenile fish discarded overboard by an overall 57 percent.

[http://www.cefas.co.uk/media/133500/cefas%20project%2050%20per%20cent%20final%20report%2020%20june%2009%20\(revised\).pdf](http://www.cefas.co.uk/media/133500/cefas%20project%2050%20per%20cent%20final%20report%2020%20june%2009%20(revised).pdf)

EU Commissioner praises project 50%. November 2010.

We already have many good examples of fishermen and scientists joining forces. One such example is Project 50%.... She said such initiatives show there is a will for fishermen and scientists to work more closely together and bring direct benefits to fishing communities. <http://www.cefas.co.uk/news/news-releases/2010-releases/plaudits-for-collaborative-“project-50”-at-eu-symposium.aspx>

Scoping study: actionable insight into discarding behaviours of trawlermen in the North East Final Report to Cefas and Defra. May 2010.

<http://www.cefas.co.uk/media/140060/actionable%20insight%20into%20the%20discarding%20behaviour%20of%20fishermen%20in%20the%20one%20england.pdf>

Actionable insight into the discarding behaviours of fishermen in the North West. 22 April 2010.

<http://www.cefas.co.uk/media/140063/actionable%20insight%20into%20the%20discarding%20behaviours%20of%20fishermen%20in%20the%20nw%20england.pdf>

There are now 11 fact sheets that can be downloaded from:

<http://www.cefas.co.uk/data/fishing-gear-technology-at-cefas.aspx> and <http://www.seafish.org/b2b/subject.asp?p=325>

Fact sheets:

Sea trial 1: MFV Korenbloem

Result: New net designs - reduced their discards of juvenile fish by 60% and Dover sole by 70%.

<http://www.cefas.co.uk/media/135595/project50seatrialsno1mfvkorenbloem.pdf>

Sea trial 2: MFV Barentssee

Result: New net designs - reduced their discards of juvenile fish by 63%.

<http://www.cefas.co.uk/media/135598/project50seatrialsno2barentssee.pdf>

Sea trial 3: MFV Emilia Jayne

Result: New net designs - reduced their discards of juvenile fish by 59%.

<http://www.cefas.co.uk/media/135773/cefasseatrial3finalforweb.pdf>

Discards – new developments in 2010 as at 16 December 2010

Sea trial 4: Kerrie Marie

Result: New net designs - reduced their discards of juvenile fish by 25%.

<http://www.cefas.co.uk/media/135773/cefasseatrial3finalforweb.pdf>

Sea trial 5: MFV Geeske

Result: New net designs - reduced their discards of juvenile fish by 66%.

<http://www.cefas.co.uk/media/136951/cefasea%20sea%20trial%205%20final%20for%20web.pdf>

Sea trial 6: MFV Christina

Result: New net designs - reduced their discards of juvenile fish by 68%.

<http://www.cefas.co.uk/media/136954/cefasea%20sea%20trial%206%20for%20web.pdf>

Sea trial 7: MFV Margaret of Ladrum

Result: New net designs - reduced their discards of juvenile fish by 53%.

http://www.cefas.co.uk/media/139088/factsheet_7_%20margaret_of_ladrum.pdf

Sea trial 8: MFV Admiral Grenville

Result: New net designs - reduced their discards of juvenile fish by 45%.

http://www.cefas.co.uk/media/139091/factsheet_8_admiral_grenville.pdf

Sea trial 9: Lloyd Tyler

Result: New net designs - reduced their discards of juvenile fish by 41%.

[http://www.cefas.co.uk/media/139095/factsheet_9_lloyd_%20tyler_version_2%20\(web\).pdf](http://www.cefas.co.uk/media/139095/factsheet_9_lloyd_%20tyler_version_2%20(web).pdf)

Sea trial 10: MFV Carhelmar

Result: New net designs - reduced their discards of juvenile fish by 66%.

http://www.cefas.co.uk/media/139098/factsheet_10_carhelmar.pdf

Sea trial 11: MFV Kerrie Marie (second trial)

Result: New net designs - reduced their discards of juvenile fish by 52%.

[http://www.cefas.co.uk/media/139365/factsheet_11_kerrie_marie_no%20\(web\).pdf](http://www.cefas.co.uk/media/139365/factsheet_11_kerrie_marie_no%20(web).pdf)

4. CEFAS 2009/2010 Fisheries Science Partnership Project

[http://www.cefas.co.uk/data/fisheries-science-partnership-\(fsp\)/20092010-programme.aspx](http://www.cefas.co.uk/data/fisheries-science-partnership-(fsp)/20092010-programme.aspx)

Reports on North Sea 'Eliminator' Type Gear Trials, South Wales Bass Square Mesh Panels, Modification and Testing of an 'Eliminator' Type Gear in the North Sea Saithe Fishery, CCTV Development on Western Irish Sea Nephrops Vessels and Simple trawl modification to reduce cod catches published in 2009.

5. Other trials

Discards – new developments in 2010 as at 16 December 2010

5.1 Assessing discard mortality of commercially caught skates (Rajidae) – testing results concluded from laboratory experiments

Purpose: The project aim is to identify skate species discarded in representative UK fisheries, their condition and discard survival rates. CEFAS.

Timing: July 2009 to March 2011.

5.2. Assessing survivability of bycaught porbeagle and spurdog and furthering our understanding of movement patterns in UK marine waters

Purpose: The project aim is to assess the survivability of porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) and spurdog (*Squalus acanthias*) which are by-caught but returned.

Timing: July 2009 to March 2012.

5.3. Bycatch And Discards: Management Indicators, Trends and location (BADMINTON)

Purpose: The project aim is to develop operational indicators and propose discard mitigation tools for fisheries management. This project proposes to do the following: 1. An analysis of total catch in terms of species and size composition; 2. develop indicators of discard issues; 3. Analyse the factors that determine discard amounts; 4. Investigate fishers' behaviour to understand how discarding is part of their fishing strategy; 5. Based on all previous steps, recommend potential mitigation measures. CEFAS.

Timing: August 2009 to August 2012.

5.4. Mitigating Cetacean Bycatch

Purpose: The project is to develop methods to reduce cetacean bycatch in nets by testing some specific mitigation measures (pingers), in collaboration with industry and Seafish. St Andrews University

Timing: April 2008 to March 2011.

5.5. Southern Ireland

Purpose: BIM and MI have trialed Swedish grids with and without square mesh panels in the Irish Sea. Reports for all these are due for release in the near future. Much of the work being done in the Irish Sea is trying to find an answer to Article 11 and Article 13 in the Council Regulation (EC) No 1342/2008

Establishing a long-term plan for cod stocks and the fisheries exploiting those stocks. These articles cover fishing effort regime and the allocation of fishing effort for highly selective gear and cod-avoiding fishing trips.

[http://eur-](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:348:0020:0033:EN:PDF)

[lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:348:0020:0033:EN:PDF](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:348:0020:0033:EN:PDF)

Policy - England, Wales, Northern and Southern Ireland

1. NFFO blasts Commission policies. 3 December 2010.

In responding to the Commission’s TAC proposals the NFFO anticipates an increase in discards in 14 different fisheries. It cites positive initiatives stating these have three common characteristics: The measures put in place are tailored to the specifics of the fishery concerned...The skippers and their organizations were centrally involved in the design of the initiatives....Fishermen have worked collaboratively to achieve results.

http://www.nffo.org.uk/news/commission_discards.html and *Fishing News*.

2. Irish Sea fishermen slash cod discards. 3 December 2010.

Results from a new scientific sampling programme in the Irish Sea show the amount of cod discarded by the entire Northern Ireland fleet in 2008 was only 2.8 tonnes or 1.5% of the catch. Fishermen from Kilkeel, Ardglass and Portavogie were trained to self-sample their catches and independent observers also went to sea to monitor what was retained and what was discarded. *Fishing News*.

3. Westminster Hall Debates – Fisheries. 2 December 2010.

This was a long debate with discards a key topic.

<http://www.theyworkforyou.com/whall/?id=2010-12-02a.341.0&s=speaker%3A11148>

4. Parliamentary Question. Written answers. 25 November 2010.

A series of six questions relating to the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy and bycatch/discards. This provides 2009 discard figures and refers to the quota management system pilot trials (with a link to the Cefas web site), the activities of the Discard Action Group, the Fisheries Science Partnership and the Conservation Credits Scheme. *Discussions regularly take place with representatives of the fishing industry on reducing discards through improving gear selectivity and altering fishing practices. For example, the Discard Action Group is a forum, facilitated by Seafish, that brings industry, managers, scientists, and seafood organisations together to discuss research, share knowledge and come up with novel ways to reduce discards. The industry has been encouraged through such groups to use gear modifications or methods which are successful at reducing discards.*

	2008	2009
<p>Fleet: English and Welsh vessels (over-10m) Area: North Sea (Area IV), and waters to the south and west of England and Wales (Area VII) Species: Demersal quota species (cod, haddock, plaice, sole, anglerfish etc)</p>	<p>37,000t, of which 27,600t were landed and 9,400t discarded</p>	<p>48,660t, of which 30,160t were landed and 18,500t discarded</p>

Discards – new developments in 2010 as at 16 December 2010

Fleet: Scottish vessels (over-10m) Areas: North Sea (Area IV), and west of Scotland (Division IVa) Species: Cod, haddock, whiting and saithe	91,700t of which 56,600t were landed and 35,100t discarded.	84,164t, of which 59,763t were landed and 24,401t discarded
Fleet: UK vessels fishing for pelagic species Area: All areas Species: Mackerel, horse mackerel, herring, sprat, blue whiting	203,200t of which 198,300t were landed and 4,900t discarded.	76,625t, of which 68,347t were landed and 8,278t discarded

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Commons/bydate/20101125/writtenanswers/part015.html>

5. Northern Irish trawlers discard 900 tonnes of fish. 25 November 2010.

Over 900 tonnes of fish were discarded by Northern Ireland's fishermen in 2009. The majority are of fish below minimum landing size with no market value. There were relatively low discards of marketable size fish.

<http://www.worldfishing.net/news101/n-irish-trawlers-dump-900-tonnes-of-fish>

6. Channel 4 Fish season. Nov/Dec 2010

Channel 4 is cooking up a new season of fish-specific programming, dubbed The Big Fish Fight, and featuring top TV chefs including Gordon Ramsay, Jamie Oliver, Heston Blumenthal, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and Arthur Potts Dawson. *See separate document for full details.*

7. Catchpole, T. L., et al., Constructing indices to detect temporal trends in discarding. Fish Res. (2010). Doi: 10.1016/j.fishres.2010.10.012. 17 October 2010.

A news fisheries research article utilises data from observer programmes for England and Wales and shows a reduction of 61% between 2002 and 2008 in the weight of discards. This was attributed to reducing levels of fishing effort and diminishing catch weights. The weight per day was estimated to have declined from 761 kg in 2002 to 425 kg in 2008.

8. Parliamentary Question. Written answers. 20 July 2010.

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fish were discarded for the purpose of meeting EU quotas in 2009.

Richard Benyon: UK fisheries laboratories send observers to sea to record the quantity of fish discarded and retained by fishing vessels. This sampling is intended to provide estimates of discards of the main commercial species, but at present is not representative of all UK fisheries. It is also only possible to sample a proportion of the vessels participating in any fishery. As a consequence, estimates of total discards are subject to uncertainty and the resolution of the

Discards – new developments in 2010 as at 16 December 2010

data does not usually allow us to differentiate between the specific reasons for discards (e.g. over-quota, under legal minimum landing size or high-graded).

The analysis of 2009 discards data is not yet complete. We are therefore unable to provide an estimate of how many fish were discarded in pursuit of EU quotas in 2009. However, in 2008 around 440,000 tonnes of quota stocks were landed by UK vessels. These were caught in a wide range of different areas and fisheries, many of which were not sampled by scientific observers. Estimates of discards for 2008 are available for the following fisheries. See figures in table above. In total these fisheries are estimated to have caught around 332,000t of the relevant species in 2008, of which 283,000t was landed and 49,000t were discarded.

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Commons/bydate/20100720/writtenanswers/part003.html>

9. Parliamentary Question. Written answers. 19 July 2010.

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the future of the common fisheries policy; and if she will bring forward proposals to (a) give local residents more influence over the future of their fishing industries and (b) end fish discards.

Richard Benyon: The UK will press for radical reform of the common fisheries policy (CFP). There must be more regionalised decision-making; genuine integration of fisheries with other marine policies; longer-term management planning; greater flexibility and certainty in the system; and a mechanism to ease the transition to a sustainable and profitable future. In particular we want to see decision making decentralised, and simplified, to give more responsibility for implementation to member states, for example where they are working together regionally.

The wasteful practice of discarding fish must be brought to an end. Reform should give fishermen more control, incentives and responsibility for managing fish stocks and helping to reduce discards. Reform also gives the UK an opportunity to deploy evidence on how switching from landing based quotas to catch quotas can reduce discards.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100719/text/100719w0001.htm>

10. European Fisheries Council meeting, Richard Benyon sets out the UK position on reforming the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). June 2010.

He highlighted five changes that are crucial to achieve radical reform:

- Removing unnecessary and over-detailed regulation by moving to simplified, de-centralised decision making for fisheries management.
- Replacing the rigidity of our current quota and effort management rules, which often increase discards, by giving fishermen clearer entitlement to fish – for example, through a system of credits or user rights.

Discards – new developments in 2010 as at 16 December 2010

- Managing the whole fleet under a single regime giving fishermen the freedom to plan for and develop their businesses, and trade fishing opportunities more flexibly.
- Reducing discards by, for example, a binding obligation on Member States to account for all the discards made by their fleet and creating a regulatory framework of incentives enabling us to catch less but land more fish.
- Integrating fisheries policy within other policies applying to the marine environment.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/fisheries/documents/fisheries/fishfocus18.pdf>

11. Discard ban could damage seabird success. 23 March 2010.

A proposed EU ban on throwing unwanted fish overboard from commercial boats could put one of the North Sea's most successful sea birds at risk, say researchers at the University of Leeds. New research led by Dr Keith Hamer, Leeds' Faculty of Biological Sciences, will assess the extent to which gannets rely on unwanted fish and offal thrown from fishing boats to successfully breed and raise their chicks.

"The North Sea has undergone massive environmental changes over the last twenty years, which has put pressure on nearly all sea bird species," said Dr Hamer. "Only gannets have consistently bred successfully, partly because they can travel as far as South West Norway to feed, but also because they are able to target food thrown overboard by fishing boats." Although discards should be stopped to protect marine biodiversity, research is needed on the impact of a ban, so policy makers can understand the best way to implement it."

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/03/100322101521.htm>

12. Parliamentary question - Synopsis of House of Lords debate on discards 10 February 2010 started by Lord Teverson (Liberal Democrat).

Lord Teverson to ask Her Majesty's Government what proposals they have following their estimate that, of 37,000 tonnes of cod, haddock, plaice, sole, anglerfish and other demersal species caught by English and Welsh registered vessels in the North Sea and south western waters during 2008, 9,400 tonnes were discarded.

Lord Davies of Oldham (Deputy Chief Whip (House of Lords - Labour))

My Lords, the UK Government are funding initiatives to address discards, working together with the fishing industry. These include limitations on fishing effort, improving gear selectivity and closures that protect spawning and undersized fish. The UK has also committed, with Denmark and Germany, to trial a catch quota management system. Through the review of the common fisheries policy, we are working towards a European discard policy that applies to all member states, regardless of where they fish.

Lord Teverson

..... we throw away a quarter of our most precious species. Is that not obscene, and should not the UK Government insist, in relation to the common fisheries policy, that like Canada, Norway, Iceland and New Zealand, we should have a ban on discards? Why cannot the EU do that when other nations can?

Lord Davies

.... of course the Government are opposed to discards; the problem is monitoring and controlling them. The issue is exacerbated by the developments in gear which have led to the catching of a greater amount of fish of the wrong kind as far as the fishing boat is concerned. However, we are making progress and have almost halved the tonnage of discards in the past 10 years. We are also spending considerable sums on it, pursuing initiatives and responding to the European Commission's request that further action be taken.

.... we are critical of other countries that do not reach the same standards and are perhaps not putting in the same level of investment as we do. Nevertheless, monitoring is certainly the problem with regard to discards. That is why we are piloting electronic measurement on-ship and encouraging British fishermen to participate in initiatives to monitor the nature of the catch and ensure that discards are kept to the absolute minimum, with the expectation that the rest of Europe will follow any successful development of that policy.

The Countess of Mar (Crossbench)

.... what is the logic behind discards? Fish tend to swim not in isolation but in shoals of different sorts of fish. Why, when we are short of fish to eat, are we throwing into the sea fish that could easily be eaten, just because they happen to be the wrong sort of fish for that particular boat?

Lord Davies of Oldham

... fishermen have to make a living. Their problem is that only certain fish are marketable and economic to land, to say nothing of the fact that new gear tends to catch in its nets a whole lot of sea animals and fish that are really not edible and which are therefore discarded. The noble Countess is right; we want to change the gear that is used so that it is appropriate for the commercial fish to be landed. That is exactly what the British Government are seeking to achieve.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100209-0001.htm>

<http://www.government-news.co.uk/house-of-lords/201002/house-of-lords-debates-for-20100209.asp#>

13. Parliamentary Business - 6 January 2010

Fishing: Tonnage

Question - Asked by Lord Teverson

Q. To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the total tonnage of fish caught by the United Kingdom-registered fishing fleet from species regulated by Common Fisheries Policy quotas in the past year for which the figure is available; and what was the total tonnage of those fish that were discarded. [HL833]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Lord Davies of Oldham): UK fisheries laboratories send observers to sea to record the quantity of fish discarded and retained by fishing vessels. This sampling is intended to provide estimates of discards of the main commercial species, but at present is not representative of all UK fisheries. It is also only possible to sample a proportion of the vessels participating in any fishery. As a consequence, estimates of total discards are subject to uncertainty (figures for 2008 were repeated in the HofC in July 2010 – see new entry).

Comment

The answer made it clear that although at-sea observers record quantities caught and discarded and the sampling is intended to provide estimates of discards of the main commercial species, figures are not representative of all UK fisheries and only a proportion of vessels in any fishery are sampled.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100106w0002.htm>

NORWAY

1. A northern light for Europe's fisheries policy. 24 June 2010.

The debate about discards has become hopelessly entangled. We should consider an option championed by Norway.

<http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/imported/a-northern-light-for-europe-s-fisheries-policy/68331.aspx> (subscription only)

2. The Norwegian Minister of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs meets the Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament. 22 June 2010.

MEPs focused in particular on issues concerning the management of mackerel, whaling, discards, control measures, subsidies, overcapacity in the fishing fleet and aquaculture. One of the MEPs pointed out that the EU has discussed a ban on discards ever since Norway adopted a discard ban in 1987. This Member also indicated that, in the EU, the focus was on how difficult it is to implement such a ban and asked for advice from Norway. “It’s a question of political will. It is essential to adopt a discard ban in the EU, along with the appropriate technical measures, in order to achieve this goal”, responded the Minister.

<http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/fkd/Whats-new/News/2010/the-norwegian-minister-of-fisheries-and-.html?id=609226>

3. Norwegian fisheries management, our approach on discards of fish.

http://www.regjeringen.no/upload/FKD/Brosjyrer%20og%20veiledninger/fact_sheet_discard.pdf

FRANCE/HOLLAND/FAROE ISLANDS/GERMANY

1. Discards take center stage. 10 March 2010

The debate over the EU's controversial regulations on discards took center stage at the North Atlantic Seafood Forum (NASF), held in Oslo, Norway.

"I don't just think discards are bad, they are wrong, unethical and they're something we cannot accept," Peter Dill, CEO of German seafood giant Deutsche See GmbH told NASF delegates. "But what I really can't accept is that it will take three, four or even five years to stop discards."

The EU has estimated that between 40 and 60 percent of fish caught by vessels in the mixed-fishery area of the North Sea, for example, is discarded. Dill suggested it wouldn't be too difficult to come up with a new system that outlaws discards and cited Norway and Iceland as two countries that have successfully implemented such schemes.

In fact, Deutsche See, which is one of Germany's largest seafood processors with EUR 400 million (USD 545 million) in annual sales, implemented its own experimental project three years ago to demonstrate that there is a way to move forward without discards. Called German Sea, the study was sanctioned by the EU and allowed three boats to enter the North Sea and to land all its catches at harbor. German Sea then bought all the boats' non-quota fish and put it on the market.

<http://www.seafoodsource.com/newsarticledetail.aspx?id=4294989594>

EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE

1. EU considering 'discard' ban in Baltic Sea. 10 November 2010.

The EU is considering introducing a 'no discard' policy in the Baltic Sea. Currently about 5% of the fish caught in the area were discarded.

<http://www.theparliament.com/policy-focus/agriculture/agriculture-article/newsarticle/eu-considering-discard-ban-in-baltic-sea/>

2. Seminar 'State of European Fish Stocks in 2010'. Brussels, 14 September 2010.

The Commission is organising a seminar on 14 September 2010 to present the state of fish stocks in 2010. The seminar aims to have open discussions on the latest scientific research on EU fisheries, and how it should be applied in practice for the 2011 fishing season and in the long term. The seminar will cover all major European fish stocks (cod, herring, anchovy, whiting, etc). The audience comprised fishing sector representatives (including ACFA and RACs), journalists, MEPs, representatives of Member States and members of the public.

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/news_and_events/press_releases/020910/index_en.htm

3. WWF comments on new ICES advice for cod. 30 June 2010.

Whilst numbers of mature North Sea cod show some sign of increasing there are not yet enough fish to maintain healthy stock levels; and a continuing problem with discards – fish thrown overboard – indicates that the current management system for North Sea cod has not been effective in controlling catches.

A lack of data on discards from Belgian, Dutch, and French fisheries makes it impossible to accurately assess the problem of discarding. However it is estimated that discards accounted for 30 to 50 percent of the total catch between 2007 and 2009. Cod is often caught as bycatch whilst fishermen are pursuing other fish stocks, and whilst conservation measures exist to prevent this problem, they are not being consistently adopted by the catching sector.

WWF is calling for all vessels to fully document their catches, using onboard cameras and catch quotas. Catch quotas limit the amount of fish removed from the sea, rather than recording what is landed. Such an approach has already been trialled by fleets in Scotland, England, and Denmark, and could lead to a marked reduction in discards, as fishermen have a greater incentive to fish more selectively.

http://www.wwf.org.uk/wwf_articles.cfm?unewsid=4043

4. New ICES advice throws spotlight on discards. June 2010

As an example - cod in the North Sea

Re Conservation Credits Scheme.....ICES notes that during the initial year of operation (2008) cod discarding rates increased substantially to 62%. However, only 15 real-time closures were implemented in 2008 and involvement was

voluntary. In 2009 there were 144 closures and involvement was mandatory for relevant Scottish vessels, and cod discarding rates have declined to 43%. Recent work tracking Scottish vessels in 2009 has concluded that vessels did indeed move from areas of higher to lower cod concentration following real-time closures during the first and third quarters (there was no significant effect during the second and fourth quarters). However, this is still a work in progress and further evaluation is required.

For a full summary of June 2010 ICES commentary on discards see:

http://www.seafish.org/upload/b2b/file/resource_sustainability/SeafishSummary_June2010ICESadvice_Discards.pdf

5. Workshop on technical measures and discards. Brussels, 21 June 2010.

The Commission organised a workshop on technical conservation measures and discards in the future CFP. The aim of this workshop was to hold discussions between gear experts, NGOs and the fishing industry on the current system of technical conservation measures in the EU to learn how technical conservation measures could possibly be regulated in the future reformed CFP.

The agenda covered:

- Technical conservation measures and how to reduce discards;
- Selectivity of fishing gears and practices;
- Access to resources - current spatial/temporal measures such as closed areas;
- Impact of fisheries in the marine ecosystem.

For papers see:

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/news_and_events/events/workshop_210610/index_en.htm

6. Reducing fish discards: recommendations for successful pilot projects. 18 February 2010.

New research has shed light on the factors needed to successfully implement pilot projects designed to reduce the dumping of unwanted fish by fishermen. The analysis of 15 European projects highlights the importance of involving the fishing industry in developing and implementing pilot projects. Source: Catchpole, T.L. & Gray, T.S. (2010).

The results showed that 14 of the 15 pilots started successfully, nine were completed and four resulted in the implementation of the trialled techniques. The study identified seven key conditions that were responsible for the varying success of the projects and provided recommendations on how to meet these conditions, which included:

- Fisheries with the highest discarding rates should be identified and targeted for pilot projects. All but two projects were triggered by a perceived crisis in the fishery industry, mainly related to quota cuts or fishery access restrictions. These were not necessarily the fisheries with the highest discard rates.

Discards – new developments in 2010 as at 16 December 2010

- Pre-pilot briefings should be conducted with skippers to determine appropriate rewards. Economic incentives were influential at all stages of implementation of the pilot projects and were most influential when the industry was involved in choosing incentives.
- Scientists have a major role in providing technical and scientific expertise, but the knowledge of the fishermen themselves is just as important.
- A steering group should be created that represents fishing industry members and includes scientists and a manager. Leadership was clearly linked to the success of pilots from either an individual or a group.
- Enforcement is necessary both for completion of the pilot and implementation afterwards. This can be done by either voluntary compliance using publicity or legal sanctions with targets for reduction in discarding.

Reducing discards of fish at sea: a review of European pilot projects. Journal of Environmental Management 91: 717-72.

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/185na5.pdf>

7. Motion for a European Parliament Resolution on the Green Paper on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy A7-0014/2010 by the Committee on Fisheries. 8 February 2010.

The European Parliament (Committee on Fisheries) voted for a major overhaul of most of its policies including a demand to an end of management from Brussels. According to the non-binding report there was agreement the overhaul should take better account of the huge differences across European fleets and fisheries, give greater responsibility to fishing regions, address the problem of fleet overcapacity and improve the traditional quota system.

MEPs urge the Commission to consider carefully possible new management models to complement the traditional system of total allowable catches (TACs), of which each Member State gets an annual national quota. This should pave the way for phasing out discards of unwanted by-catches. MEPs view discards as an unsustainable practice which should be eliminated by means of both positive and negative incentives, including discard bans if incentives prove insufficient.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A7-2010-0014+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN>

8. COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) No 23/2010 of 14 January 2010 fixing for 2010 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in EU waters and, for EU vessels, in waters where catch limitations are required and amending Regulations (EC) No 1359/2008, (EC) No 754/2009, (EC) No 1226/2009 and (EC) No 1287/2009.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:021:0001:0120:EN:PDF>