

15 December 2014



Tracking key players and activities currently underway to create a pathway to the landing obligation

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Key players and activities currently underway to create a pathway to the landing obligation. 15 December 2014.

DEVOLVED ADMINISTRATIONS

Defra and associated agencies ongoing work

Lead	Activity	Timeframe
Defra	Discard CFP implementation group meetings in 2014. Meetings in January, August and October.	Ongoing
Defra	CFP implementation (England) Onshore Catch Management Under a Landing Obligation meetings in 2014. Meetings in September, October and December.	Ongoing
Defra	Six week consultation on impact of pelagic landing obligation. With detail on quota management, enforcement, science (etc), decisions for England, but link to UK, and decisions to be taken based on the CFP regulation, and/or provisions to seek through regionalisation. Series of workshops held throughout the UK for feedback.	31/03/14 – 12/05/14.
Defra	Publication of summary of responses to pelagic landing obligations. Main areas of concern were: allocation of any uplift in pelagic species quota, carrying and storing fish not for direct human consumption and the use of exemptions. A range of options were suggested on the method by which to allocate quota uplift. No one option was favoured above the proposed method of Fixed Quota Allocation (FQA) units. Comments were received on the impact of carrying fish below Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes (MCRS) which cannot be used for direct human consumption. Concerns raised were primarily in relation to the sorting and stowage of this fish at sea. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/336333/pelagic-consult-sum-resp.pdf	24 July 2014
Defra	Consultation on impact of demersal landing obligation.	Due 2015
Catch Quota trials		
MMO	Under 10 metre remote electronic monitoring technical trial. The purpose was to test the reliability of using REM equipment onboard commercial fishing vessels of less than 10 m overall length, and to determine whether this technology could be used to monitor and quantify catches. The systems proved very reliable on board with sensors working almost continuously. http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/fisheries/management/documents/quotas/cqt_u10m.pdf	Published 18 June 2013
MMO	North Sea trials show less than 1 percent of cod discarded. 11 August 2014. The MMO has published the results of catch quota trials which took place in the North Sea during 2013. 12 vessels took part in the scheme in the North Sea in 2013. The report details how the practice is proving a successful, alternative method of managing fisheries. Results for the 2013 trials show an overall estimated discard rate of North Sea cod of 0.03% (496kg) from a total sampled catch of 1,452 tonnes. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/342449/North_Sea_Cod_Catch_Quota_Trials_Final_Report_2013.pdf	2013 report published August 2014

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MMO	<p>Final report showing that discards are under the UK average for Western haddock. 22 September 2014.</p> <p>A trial has been carried out on a trawler fishing under a discard ban for Area VIIb-k haddock, which is caught amongst a diverse range of over 20 species in the south west mixed fishery. On-shore observers estimated that less than 0.01% incidental discards and less than 1% of the haddock catch was below the minimum landing size or damaged. The fishery in the area is fished by over 130 UK vessels, which discard about 62% of haddock because of quota restrictions. The results of the trial show the potential effect of a haddock as a choke species – a low quota species that, when the quota is gone, would lead vessels to stop fishing even if they still had quota for other species. The data suggests that the south west trawl fleet faces challenges in avoiding haddock catches, which could result in an early closure to this fishery when the quota is exhausted.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/catch-quota-trial-final-report-2013-western-haddock</p>	Final report published 22 Sept 2014
MMO	<p>English Catch Quota Trials in the North Sea and Western Waters for 2014.</p> <p>Catch quotas have demonstrated their effectiveness at reducing discards and encouraging more selective fishing behaviour. Successful vessels will be allocated additional quota for the relevant species. A priority for 2014 trials will be to document and monitor total catches across a range of species likely to be subject to a landing obligation in 2016. An exemption from effort or additional kilowatt days will also be considered for applicants operating in the North Sea. Remote electronic monitoring (REM) equipment, including CCTV, will be used to monitor fishing operations and audit catch documentation. Vessels may occasionally be required to carry MMO observers. The project was due to start in early February 2014 and end on 31 December 2014.</p> <p>http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/news/news/140110.htm</p>	Early Feb 2014 – December 2014.
Cefas		
Cefas	<p>Discard Survivability - MF1234. Cefas project.</p> <p>This project will provide: (1) an assessment of survival rates of quota species in different fisheries and areas; (2) case studies to quantify discard survival under a range of different environmental and capture conditions and; (3) evaluation of factors influencing survival and identification of methods to improve survival rates or discard management. Objective: to estimate a discard survival rate that is representative of the fishery and predation is not a priority factor.</p> <p>http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=19011&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=MF1234&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description</p> <p><u>Selected fisheries:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) NE otter trawl (>100mm) – Blyth. Species: Plaice. Fieldwork is finalised (Aug/Oct 2014) 2) SE gill nets – Eastbourne. Species: Plaice and rays. Fieldwork will start end November 2014 3) SW beam and otter trawls – Plymouth. Species: Plaice and sole (maybe monkfish). Fieldwork: beam trawl started Nov 2014; otter trawl in January 2015 4) Wales gill nets - Swansea. Species: Plaice and Sole. Fieldwork is finalised <p>http://www.seafish.org/media/1330550/dag_nov2014_cefas_update.pdf</p>	2014 Aug/Oct 14 Nov 2014 Nov 14 – Jan 15 Completed

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Lead	Activity	Timeframe
Cefas	<p>Applied Science to Support the Industry in delivering an end to discards (ASSIST) - MF1232. To investigate how the introduction of catch quotas and their implementation will effect different sectors of the fishing industry; Identify and exchange information with regional groups of fishermen to validate current estimated catch and discard patterns and drivers; Identify and evaluate practical measures to avoid unwanted catches, meet environmental objectives and maximise revenues; Facilitate the move to managing a land-all-catch policy, including developing and evaluating methods that enable total catch monitoring. 2013 to 2018. http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&Completed=0&ProjectID=18902</p> <p>1. ASSIST road shows for English and Welsh ports. Autumn 2013/Spring 2014.</p> <p>2. Practical measures to avoid unwanted catches / discards (e.g. gear selectivity, fishing techniques and catch handling).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North West: <i>Nephrops</i> and otter trawlers (plaice and whiting) to avoid the capture of plaice. - South West: otter trawls (haddock and other by-catches) to avoid catching unwanted haddock. 1st trial completed. Second and third trials due to start. - North East: <i>Nephrops</i> trawls (whiting, plaice and other by-catches) apply more selective gear to avoid catching whiting and plaice <p>3. FDF: Technical evaluation in using REM technology to collect scientific fisheries data and assessing impacts of catch quota management (behaviour change).</p> <p>Work so far: Started staff training to analyse CCTV data (collaboration with Marine Scotland); Collected data from 2 trips (2 SW otter trawls).</p> <p>To do: Data analysis of video data; Verify how these data can be used for DCF and stock assessment (plaice) http://www.seafish.org/media/1330550/dag_nov2014_cefas_update.pdf</p>	<p>2013 -2018</p> <p>Summer 14 Aug/Sept 2014 Trials Jan 2015</p> <p>Nov 2014</p>
Cefas/ Seafish	<p>Utilisation of discards in bulk outlets not for human consumption (Market Led Sustainability 2) - MF1227. The aim of this project was to take forward one of the recommendations from the Fishing for Markets (F4M) report forward on behalf of Defra. http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=18331&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=MF1227&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description</p> <p>Study to identify commercially available bulk uses or outlets for discards that may be landed, and then assess the feasibility of accessing these bulk outlets. http://www.seafish.org/media/publications/SR661_Utilising_Discards_bulk_uses.pdf</p>	<p>Project completed 2013</p>
Cefas	<p>Fisheries Science Partnership project tenders for 2014/2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSP 40 Western Channel Beam Trawl Survey • FSP41 Area VII Haddock Discard Elimination Using Technical Measures • FSP42 Aligning Spurdog Management with the Landing Obligation under the Reformed Common Fisheries Policy • FSP43 North East Coast Study On The Survival Of Discards • FSP44 Maximising Economic Return For The Haddock Fishery By Selective Mesh Size In The Under 10m Gillnet Fleet. <p>http://www.cefas.defra.gov.uk/industry-information/fisheries-science-partnership/tender-invitations.aspx</p>	<p>2014/2015 Proposals. Closing date for tenders 16 May 2014</p>

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Cefas	<p>Discard ban trial. Report published October 2014. This involved eight vessels. It looked at: practical implications; monitoring and enforcement; drivers for discarding; fisheries management and data collection. Four vessels over 10 metres and four under 10 metre vessels took part for 10 days. It identified a number of issues: volume of discards being landed; quota; landing/transportation costs compared to fishmeal return; health and safety on vessel; points of control – security of bins. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-the-english-discard-ban-trial</p>	Report published October 2014
Cefas	<p>Project SESAMI. Report published October 2014. The aim of this project is to conduct a self-sampling trial with the under 10m fishing fleets in England to supplement existing observer data and gather evidence on the fishing practices of the under tens. The project will also be used to trial the most selective configurations and strategies of different gear types including gill, trammel, and tangle nets, hand lines and other types used by the Under 10m fleets. The project will be conducted in two phases. The first phase will involve data collection by skippers and crew, and the validation of the data they collect by Cefas observers. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/361558/SESAMI_final_report_Final.pdf</p>	Report published October 2014
Cefas	<p>Fishermen are invited to propose Fisheries Science Partnership project ideas for 2015/16. Cefas and the FSP panel are keen to see proposals that will help the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy reform especially innovative approaches to the forthcoming demersal landing obligation or discard ban. Project examples include, but are not restricted to: mixed-fishery and regional approaches; selectivity improvements (including new gear); discard-survivability studies; spatial adaptations; and emerging issues in support of the Advisory Councils (ACs). https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fisheries-science-partnership-fsp-seeking-project-ideas</p>	2015/2016 Proposals. Closing date for tenders 23 January 2015
Cefas	<p>North Western Waters Discard Atlas (2014) Due for publication.</p>	Dec 2014
Cefas/ Seafish	<p>UK Gear selectivity database Cefas and Seafish are collaborating on the database which will map gear and selectivity options. The aim is to add the database to the website by the end of the summer. It will also link in with the Seafish Risk Assessment for Sourcing Seafood (RASS) project.</p>	During 2014

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Marine Scotland and associated agencies ongoing work

Lead	Activity	Timeframe
Marine Scotland	<p>Scottish Discard Steering Group The remit of the SDSG is to: to advise the Scottish Government on developing policy in regard to the implementation of the landing obligation. http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/Sea-Fisheries/19213/discards/ScottishDiscardSteeringGroup New fact sheet on the landing obligation: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0045/00450934.pdf</p>	Met 30 Oct 2013, 17 Jan, 7 Mar, 4 Jun and 3 Sept 2014.
Reports		
Marine Scotland	<p>Marine Scotland report Review of Management Options for the Landing Obligation. 7 November 2014. An obligation to land all catches (a 'discard ban') is to be progressively introduced into all EU fisheries over the next five years. This obligation presents fishermen and fisheries managers with a significant challenge. This research considers the possible management options that could help the fishing sector successfully deal with the challenge. The key findings of the report are that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widespread support exists for innovative solutions to support the Scottish fleet in living with the landing obligation. • Improvements to quota trading and the strengthening of fishing rights were regarded as important tools. • A consensus found the option of pooling quota and creating a 'buffer zone' of centrally managed quota to offer a pragmatic approach. • Effective monitoring and enforcement is perceived as a necessity in fostering the required adjustments to behaviour such as compliance and improved selectivity. <p>http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2014/11/3252</p>	7 Nov 2014
Data compilation, modelling & analysis		
Marine Scotland	<p>Compile Scottish, STECF and ICES discard rates and estimates of fMSY, flim and Blim for all TAC and quota stocks To inform gap analysis and potential quota convertibility. STECF data for West of Scotland and 2013 data still to be completed.</p>	
Marine Scotland	<p>Compilation of observer coverage and market sampling To inform gap analysis by providing information to SAFPO.</p>	Completed
Measures to Reduce Unwanted Catch		
Marine Scotland	<p>Remove contradictory technical measures and marketing regulations. Identify measures that contradict the landing obligation, and propose alternatives through the Omnibus regulation. Political agreement reached July 2014.</p>	Ongoing

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Lead	Activity	Timeframe
Marine Scotland	<p>Highly selective gear and cod avoidance/Catch Quota Trials</p> <p>Developing discard reduction and cod-avoidance measures in 2013. This may include choice of gear, use of selectivity devices, changes in when and where vessels fish (closed areas and/or closed periods) as well as fully documented fisheries. Report submitted to the Commission (June); 17 TR1 vessels taking part in FDF in 2013, and 4 TR2.</p> <p>Detailed report on 2013 NS Cod Scheme to be commissioned in early 2014. Review of terms and conditions for 2014 scheme after EU/Norway agreement. Last report was August 2011.</p> <p>http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/Licensing/FVLS/catchquota</p>	During 2014
Marine Scotland	<p>Protection for juvenile/spawning haddock</p> <p>Consider options, including potential temporary closures, to protect juvenile and/or spawning haddock in the North Sea and at Rockall. Initial soundings taken from Marine Scotland Science on Rockall Haddock.</p>	Prior to NEAFC AGM 2014
Landings obligation trials		
Marine Scotland	<p>FDF: pelagic monitoring evaluation. Development and trial of pelagic Fully Documented Fishery. One vessel taking part. Full year trial underway in 2014.</p>	Dec 2014
Marine Scotland	<p>FDF: North Sea TR1 discard trial</p> <p>Marine Scotland invited a pair team of demersal vessels, using a mesh size of 120mm+ and fishing in the North Sea, to participate in a fully documented landing obligation trial for all demersal species. The vessels were awarded a quota uplift for a number of species in line with estimated of Scottish fleet discard rates and required to land all of their demersal catch as a trial of the discard ban. Further analysis planned of catches during trial compared to those by rest of the fleet.</p> <p>http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0043/00438386.pdf</p>	Trial July 2013. Report published Nov 2013.
Data compilation, modelling & analysis		
Marine Scotland Science	<p>The cost of discards</p> <p>To produce estimates of the cost of North Sea and WOS discards, taking account of stock dynamics, as a basis for appraisal of discard reduction measures. Modelling / analytical work complete (Nov 2013). Additional analysis to show short run costs.</p>	Circulated Jan 2014
Marine Scotland Science	<p>Historic discard data</p> <p>Input historic discard data from observer trips and build interface to extract it. This is due to be collated and will be fed to STECF. Funding secured.</p>	Due for completion Nov 2015
Marine Scotland Science/ Defra/ Seafish	<p>Economic modelling of the Scottish fleet</p> <p>Comprehensive Economic Impact Assessment of a move from status quo fisheries management measures to various potential scenarios under the new CFP Landings Obligation.</p> <p><i>See page 27.</i></p>	July 2014 – Mar 2015

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Lead	Activity	Timeframe
Marine Scotland Science	Multidisciplinary approach to discard reduction a) Research: (i) identifying drivers of discarding and shortlist of feasible options for discard reduction, (ii) study behaviour of commercially important and/or protected demersal species ahead of and in demersal trawls, (iii) develop gears that reduce discards. b) Management Options: investigate (i) the use of selective gears, (ii) spatial measures that will reduce the discarding of particular species, and (iii) new options for utilising resources that are now discarded, (iv) incentive-based measures such as quota trading and multi-species quotas. Assessment of economic impacts and consequences of different management options. Literature review/expert engagement and initial review of management options	Up to 2017
Marine Scotland Science	Analysis of expected cost of handling unwanted catches (de minimis). Economic analysis to determine conditions under which disproportionate cost provision (de minimis) could be used. The analysis will provide information on the costs and affordability of handling unwanted catches for segments of the Scottish fleet. Final report agreed.	Completed
MSS/ Seafish	Assess impact of landing obligation on onshore sector Agreed specification with Seafish.	2015 completion
Marine Scotland Science	Expected short and medium-term impact of landing obligation. Predict scale of an uplift (if any) and likelihood of that resulting in an increased TAC. Model consequences and behavioural responses to the landing obligation: where the new advised catch forecast and TAC (which implies landings + discards) is adhered to and where the new advised catch forecast and TAC is taken and where there is discarding on top of this.	
Collection of data		
Barratland Ltd/ SAMS/ MSS	Spurdog To gather and analyse data on bycatch of spurdog. The aim is to make a case for a bycatch quota for spurdog in the Minch in autumn. Further work to continue due to poor weather meaning fewer trips conducted.	31 Oct 2013 to 31 March 2014
SFA	Shetland fleet discards self-assessment scheme To identify discard rates from Shetland vessels in normal commercial operations and provide a benchmark for assessing the usefulness of landings obligation implementation measures. Six months data completed. 12 months by June 2014.	June 2013 to June 2014
NAFC Marine Centre	Shetland fleet discards self-sampling To corroborate discard rates from SFA self-assessment and identify species, size and age of fish currently discarded.	Start Feb 2014 to Feb 2015

Welsh Government and associated agencies ongoing work

Lead	Activity	Timeframe
Welsh Govt	<p>Policy</p> <p>The Welsh fleet comprises 50/60 netters and 10/12 inshore trawlers most of which are under 10 metres. The Welsh Government has not yet formulated a discard policy as they don't have the data to under-pin it, but the main issues are data collection, limited quota, carrying capacity on the vessels and port capacity. They are looking at ways to observe vessels and introduce a self-sampling programme, the local infrastructure, identify which species could be choke species, species composition, selectivity issues such as spurdog, discard levels, high survivability and look at elasmobranch exemptions.</p>	During 2014
Welsh Govt/ Cefas	<p>ASSIST</p> <p>Taking part in the Applied Science to Support the Industry in delivering an end to discards (ASSIST) programme. Three fishing ports in Wales. Meetings with Welsh fishermen will take place during the period 18-20 March, at venues in Bangor, Aberystwyth and Carmarthen. To kick off the ASSIST project there, Cefas fisheries scientists will visit Welsh ports to meet fishermen and help identify the potential impacts and opportunities that the landing obligations will raise. There are potentially 45 skippers in Wales that could take part.</p>	March 2014
Welsh Govt	<p>Discards atlas</p> <p>In hand.</p>	2014
Welsh Govt	<p>Impact of landings obligation – pelagic and demersal</p> <p>Pelagic – Considered a very small scale problem in Wales. However Welsh Government needs to be able to demonstrate implementation and compliance. Work started on a guidance document for industry in November and a simplistic system for self-recording is being developed, to be supplemented by a small ad-hoc observer programme for verification.</p>	2014
Welsh Govt/Cefas	<p>Net survivability studies</p> <p>Survivability studies have been undertaken to provide an evidence base for a de minimis exception. Phase 1 of the work has been completed successfully by CEFAS, and involved assessment of gill net fisheries for plaice and sole survivability. Phase 2 was due to start last week for an under 10 meter otter trawl study, however, despite a significant amount of time and effort involving WG, CEFAS, DEFRA and the MMO the skipper who was due to conduct the trials has pulled out of the project.</p>	During 2014
Welsh Govt	<p>Gap analysis – survivability of skates and rays</p> <p>Gap Analysis –Survivability Skates and Rays (Phase 1). Part of a comprehensive package for skates and rays in Welsh waters.</p>	During 2014
Welsh Govt	<p>CCTV trials</p> <p>CCTV Trials < and > 10m static and towed fisheries. Belgian and Anglo-Spanish vessels? FDF/Catch quota.</p>	During 2014
Welsh Govt	<p>Identifying gaps in data collection</p> <p>Self- sampling scheme and discard observer programme static and trawl net fisheries, with plans to run a workshop on self-sampling.</p>	During 2014

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Northern Ireland

Lead	Activity	Timeframe
DARDNI	<p>Discard working programme on discards</p> <p>The main aim now is to revamp the discard working programme on selectivity. The main fisheries affected are the: Pelagic – 3 vessels – from 1st Jan 2015; Nephrops – 100+ vessels from 1st Jan 2016-19; and the whitefish – 1 full time from 2016-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evolution of the Seltra 270 to improve cod selectivity - not quite good enough on cod, good for overall discard reduction – haddock and whiting; aim to improve cod reduction. • Evolution of the 300 SMP to improve haddock and whiting selectivity - good for cod, easy to use, aim to improve reduction in haddock and whiting. • Looking at small vessel solutions - 200mm SMP plus additional devices. 	2014/2015
DARDNI	<p>Report of the meeting of the Northern Ireland fishing industry task force.</p> <p>To make an interim report to the DARD Minister by the end of the year.</p> <p>http://www.dardni.gov.uk/task-force-report-of-meeting-of-11-september-2014.pdf</p>	11 Sept 2014
DARDNI	<p>Selective gear trials</p> <p>DARD is committed to a programme of selective gear trials between now and 2019 with the aim of reducing as far as possible unwanted catches of fish. Anticipate trials on 3 to 4 gear variants per year. Whilst there will be a strong focus on elimination of choke species, it is likely that reducing catches of small <i>Nephrops</i> will also be examined.</p>	2015 - 2019
DARDNI	<p>Impact of pelagic landings obligation</p> <p>This will involve three vessels and there is good data on herring landings into NI ports and it is a relatively clean fishery. Government will be working with pelagic interests through 2014 to iron out any issues. There are plans to meet with the three pelagic skippers but no formal consultation is planned.</p>	Throughout 2014
DARDNI	<p>Review of scientific studies on survivability of Nephrops.</p> <p>From 2016 small <i>Nephrops</i> will have to be landed. It may be possible to apply for an exemption based on ‘high’ survival rate. As a first step there will be a desk review of all available <i>Nephrops</i> survival studies to assess if there is sufficient potential to improve survival by modifying current fishing practices. AFBI scientists consider that survivability of <i>Nephrops</i> would have to be at least 50% to justify an application for exemption. Survivability in <i>Nephrops</i> is difficult to study as seabed conditions for returning <i>Nephrops</i> is hard to simulate.</p>	2015
DARDNI	<p>Whiting</p> <p>AFBI will develop a case to argue that the MCRS of whiting should be lower based on evidence that whiting are maturing at smaller size than previously believed. Whilst this may not affect the stock assessment model it would mean that more landed whiting could potentially be used for higher value human food chain outlets.</p>	2014/2015

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Lead	Activity	Timeframe
DARDNI	<p>Follow up to Poseidon report Activities in relation to case studies conducted by Poseidon (Seafish project) to look at the potential impact of the landing obligation on the Irish Sea <i>Nephrops</i> fleet, in particular in relation to whiting. Seafish recently briefed the Task Force on early findings from the UK impact assessment as they relate to the Irish Sea. It confirms the earlier Poseidon assessment that radical solutions will be required to address the impact of whiting as a choke species if NI is to avoid a severe impact on prawn fishing after 2019.</p>	2014/2015
DARDNI	<p>Producer Organisations Working with the POs to determine what to do with the fish when landed.</p>	2014
DARDNI	<p>New fisherman's education programme EFF funding approved.</p>	2014

Republic of Ireland

Lead	Activity	Timeframe
	<p>National Discards Implementation Group The minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine, Simon Coveney has appointed Dr Noel Cawley to chair a national Discards Implementation Group.</p>	January
BIM	<p>Apply to partake in 2014 Irish Sea Fishery Board (BIM's) discard trials. 28 February 2014.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seltra sorting box in the Nephrops fishery in the Smalls. Trial in March. Closing date for applications. • Quad-rig vs Twin-rig trawl in the Nephrops fishery at the Smalls fishing grounds. Trial in April. Report below. • Cod-end selectivity for Nephrops in the Irish Sea and the Smalls. Trial in June and July. • Cod-end selectivity for mixed whitefish in the Celtic Sea. Trial in August/September. <p>http://www.thefishsite.com/fishnews/22601/apply-to-partake-in-2014-discard-trials#sthash.R5Qx0fPj.dpuf</p>	12/03/14 12/03/14
BIM	<p>Catch comparison of Quad and Twin-rig trawls in the Celtic Sea <i>Nephrops</i> fishery.</p> <p><u>Key Findings</u> Significant reductions of cod by 61%, haddock by 38% and an increase in <i>Nephrops</i> by 54% in the Quad-rig Increased proportions of juvenile fish and <i>Nephrops</i> in the Quad-rig require further investigation. The trial was carried out onboard the MFV Celtic Chieftain, a 22m trawler from Clogherhead, County Louth.</p> <p>http://www.bim.ie/media/bim/content/publications/Catch%20comparison%20of%20Quad%20and%20Twin-rig%20trawls%20in%20the%20Celtic%20Sea%20Nephrops%20fishery%20Trial%20Report%202014.pdf</p>	29 August 2014

ADVISORY COUNCILS

North Sea Advisory Council

Lead	Activity	Timeframe
NSAC Collaboration	<p>North Sea discard atlas</p> <p>Under the North Sea Grouping scientists from the Member States (including CEFAS and Marine Scotland), with support from policy officials, have created a discard atlas for the North Sea. The next step is to analyse the information to provide advice and help inform future decision making.</p> <p>http://edepot.wur.nl/315708</p>	Published
NSAC Various Committees	<p>Vision for the implementation of the landing obligation</p> <p>This is an ambitious piece of work setting out how NSRAC members would like to emerge as a sector after implementing the landing obligation. The vision will present a description of what the North Sea demersal fisheries should ideally look like at a point after the implementation phase of the discard ban has been completed, the year 2025 has been selected as this point.</p> <p>http://nsrac.org/advice/advice-dev/development-of-a-vision-for-the-landings-obligation/</p> <p>NSAC Landing Obligation Focus Group. 27 May 2014. Version 9 was tabled for discussion http://www.nsrac.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Paper-4.1-Landings-Obligation-Vision-9-for-discussion.doc</p> <p>NSRAC Demersal W Group. 8 July 2014. Version 11 tabled for discussion http://www.nsrac.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Paper-4.1-Landing-Ob-Vision-For-approval.doc</p>	Launched 7/8 October 2013
Landing Obligation Focus Group	<p>NSAC Landing Obligation Focus Group. 8 April 2014. http://www.nsrac.org/meetings/landings-obligation-focus-group-8th-april-2014-paris-france/</p> <p>NSAC Landing Obligation Focus Group. 27 May 2014. http://www.nsrac.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Paper-4.2-Report-of-LO-Focus-Group-For-Approval.doc</p> <p>Landing Obligation Focus Group. 7 October 2014, Amsterdam http://www.nsrac.org/meetings/landings-obligation-focus-group-7th-october-2014-amsterdam/</p> <p>Landing Obligation Focus Group. 26 November 2014, London. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/discards/landings-obligation-focus-group-26th-november-2014-london/</p>	
Demersal Working Group	<p>NSAC Demersal W Group. 5 February 2014 http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/dwg/nsrac-demersal-working-group-5th-february-2014-london-uk/</p> <p>NSAC Demersal Working Group. 9 April 2014. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/nsrac-demersal-working-group-9th-april-2014-paris-france/</p> <p>NSRAC Demersal W Group. 8 July 2014. http://www.nsrac.org/category/reports/meetings-c/dwg/</p> <p>North Sea Advisory Council. Demersal Working Group meeting. 12 November 2014. Brussels. http://www.nsrac.org/category/reports/meetings-c/dwg/</p>	

Key players and activities currently underway to create a pathway to the landing obligation. 15 December 2014.

Lead	Activity	Timeframe
Mixed Fisheries	Mixed Fisheries Focus Group – 8th October 2014, Amsterdam http://www.nsrac.org/meetings/mixed-fisheries-focus-group-8th-october-2014-amsterdam/	
Web page	Landing obligation (LO) section on North Sea Advisory Council website under development Covering LO advice published and in development, meeting reports, scientific trials and other information. http://www.nsrac.org/category/keydocs/landings-obligation-advice-published/	
North Sea discard plan		
NSAC/EU	Commission delegated regulation (EU) No .../..establishing a discard plan for certain small pelagic fisheries and fisheries for industrial purposes in the North Sea. Not yet entered into force. http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/3/2014/EN/3-2014-7558-EN-F1-1.Pdf	20 October 2014
NSAC/EU	North Sea AC Discard Plan – submitted 4 July 2014. Includes <i>de minimis</i> exemptions for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A <i>de minimis</i> exemption for mackerel, horse mackerel, herring and whiting caught by pelagic trawlers up to 25 meters (overall length) using gear type OTM and targeting mackerel, horse mackerel and herring in ICES areas IV b and c south of 54 degrees north with a maximum of 3% of total annual catches for the first year and 2% for the second year was discussed; such % should be reviewed after two years of implementation and monitoring. The Scheveningen Group recommends that before deciding on exemptions for reasons of <i>de minimis</i> STECF be requested to swiftly evaluate these exemptions and give supplementary advice on any further or changed conditions to such exemptions. • Although the catches discarded under <i>de minimis</i> will not be counted against quotas, any amount of catch discarded under application of <i>de minimis</i> shall be fully recorded. 	

North Western Waters Advisory Council

Lead	Activity	Timeframe
NWWAC	<p>Establish Terms of Reference for NWWAC Horizontal Working Group on Discards Implementation of landing obligation in Mixed Demersal Fisheries for North Western Waters. Minutes: http://www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/MINUTES_NWWRAC_HWG_DISCARDS_DUBLIN_18Sept2013_EN.pdf TOR: http://www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/ToR_NWWRAC_HWG_DISCARDS_September2013_EN.pdf Also a very useful presentation from DG MARE on the landing obligation http://www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/DG_MARE_Landing_Obligation_REVISITED_Sept2013.pdf</p>	
NWWAC meetings	<p>NWWAC Horizontal Working Group on Discards. Meeting on 17 September 2014. http://www.nwwac.org/listing/horizontal-working-group-on-discards.1788.html North Western Waters discussion paper. Meeting 13 November 2014. Exploration of options for implementing the landing obligation (LO) for demersal fisheries in the North Western Waters. http://www.nwwac.org/fileupload/Papers%20and%20Presentations/2014/Discussion_Paper_Phasing_Options_Implementing_LO_NWWAC_2015Nov2014_EN.pdf</p>	
NWWAC	<p>North Western Waters Discard Atlas (2014) This will be available online shortly through the Seafish website.</p>	
North West Waters discard plans		
NWWAC /EU	<p>Commission delegated regulation (EU) No .../.. establishing a discard plan for certain pelagic fisheries in North Western waters. Not yet entered into force. http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/3/2014/EN/3-2014-7549-EN-F1-1.Pdf</p>	20 Oct 2014
NWWAC /EU	<p>North West Waters RAC Discard Plan - submitted on 10 July. Includes de minimis exemptions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A maximum of 7% for years 1 and 2, and 6% for year 3 for blue whiting. (<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>) of the total annual catches in the industrial pelagic trawler fishery targeting this species and processing it on board as surimi in ICES V, VI and VII. • A maximum of 7% for years 1 and 2, and 6% for year 3 for albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) of the total annual catches in the albacore tuna directed fisheries using midwater pair trawlers (PTM) in ICES VII and VIII. • Mackerel, horse mackerel, herring and whiting caught by pelagic trawlers up to 25 meters (overall length, whatever their flag is) using gear type OTM and targeting mackerel, horse mackerel and herring in ICES VIId with a maximum of 3% of the total annual catches for the first year and 2% for the second year. • Boarfish caught in the pelagic fisheries targeting horse mackerel by Union pelagic freezer trawlers using midwater trawls (OTM) in ICES VI and VII with a maximum of 1% of the TAC on boarfish in the first year, 0.75% in the second year. 	

Key players and activities currently underway to create a pathway to the landing obligation. 15 December 2014.

Pelagic Advisory Council

Lead	Activity	Timeframe
Discard Working Group	The Pelagic AC Discards Working Group http://www.pelagic-rac.org/media/pdf/Minutes%20Joint%20WG%20I%20and%20II%20meeting%20%20October%202013%20(discards)x.pdf	2 October 2014
Discard Working Group	The Pelagic AC Discards Working Group. 5 February 2014. http://www.pelagic-rac.org/0270/ Pelagic AC Discard Working Group meeting. 10 April 2014. http://www.pelagic-rac.org/media/pdf/Presentation%20discard%20meeting%2010.04.2014.pdf Recommendations on implementing the EU landing obligation in pelagic fisheries http://www.pelagic-rac.org/media/pdf/20140429%20PRAC%20land%20obl%20recom.pdf Pelagic AC Discard Working Group meeting. 9 July 2014. http://www.pelagic-rac.org/0290/ Pelagic AC Discard Working Group meeting. 1 October 2014. http://www.pelagic-rac.org/0292/ Next meeting is 19 February 2015.	5 February 2014 10 April 2014 9 July 2014 1 Oct 2014 19 Feb 2015
Survival focus group	Survival Focus Group The Pelagic RAC has decided to set up a focus group dealing with survival in purse-seine fisheries. The objective of this focus group is to identify conditions under which a release rule might be implemented in purse-seine fisheries. The focus group mostly operates through web-based services. http://www.pelagic-rac.org/0293/	25 May 2014
Pelagic discard plan		
PAC/EU	The Commission adopted five discard plans. Not yet entered into force. http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/discards/index_en.htm	20 Oct 2014
PAC/EU	Discard plan for the industrial fisheries in Kattegat, Skagerrak and the North Sea – submitted 30 June 2014. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No exemptions for species with high survival rate are needed in the fishery with active gear as there is very low survival in the small mesh fisheries with active gear. 	

Key players and activities currently underway to create a pathway to the landing obligation. 15 December 2014.

EU

General

Lead	Activity	Timeframe
EU	<p>Agriculture and Fisheries Council. Landing obligation and progress of discard plans. 16 and 17 June 2014.</p> <p>Ministers took stock of the preparations for the adoption by the Council of its position regarding a proposal for a regulation on the landing obligation (omnibus regulation). While generally supporting the Presidency compromise with a view to finalising the work before the end of this year, some Member States expressed diverging views about some key open issues, including the elimination of minimum conservation reference sizes (MCRS) for the pelagic species in the North-East Atlantic and the introduction of exemptions for undersized marine organisms.</p> <p>http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/agricult/143222.pdf</p> <p>A document was tabled showing the <u>state of play re the preparation of discard plans at a regional level.</u></p> <p>http://register.consilium.europa.eu/doc/srv?!=EN&f=ST%2010217%202014%20INIT</p>	16 and 17 June 2014
EU	<p>EU says no discard ban for non-quota fisheries with pelagic by-catch. 24 July 2014.</p> <p>The European fisheries and maritime affairs commission has agreed to a change in the discards regulation that will make non-quota fisheries with by-catch of pelagic species subject to quotas exempt from the ban on discards when it comes into effect next year. The change was prompted after Cornwall's sardine fishery raised concerns over the impact of the ban — part of the landing obligation for pelagic fisheries that kicks in in 2015 — for the fishery's survival. In a letter to the fishery's management organization, the UK's parliamentary under secretary of state for natural environment, water and rural affairs George Eustice said he had agreed on a change in the regulation as a result of the fishery's concerns. "In response to the pelagic landing obligation consultation, you raised issues that the Cornish sardine fishery expect to face from the landing obligation," Eustice wrote in the letter to the Cornish Sardine Management Organisation on July 15. "We heard, and understood those concerns and as part of our work in developing our policy have been considering options to assist the fishery in implementing the ban. Following your consultation response we discussed the matter with the commission, and I am pleased to say we secured a change in the interpretation of the regulation. They have now confirmed that fisheries that target non quota stocks with a by-catch of pelagic quota species such as seen in the Cornish sardine fishery are not subject to the ban in 2015." The MEP added that the timing of a discard ban, or landing obligation, for these fisheries will need to be considered as part of the discussions on the phasing of the demersal landing obligation.</p> <p>http://www.undercurrentnews.com/2014/07/24/eu-says-no-discard-ban-for-non-quota-fisheries-with-pelagic-by-catch/</p> <p>For a copy of the letter E: k_green@seafish.co.uk</p>	24 July 2014

Key players and activities currently underway to create a pathway to the landing obligation. 15 December 2014.

Lead	Activity	Timeframe
EU	<p>Regional pelagic discard plans</p> <p>The Commission adopted five discard plans (through so-called delegated acts) in preparation of the implementation of the landing obligation that is applicable from 2015 on (pelagic and industrial fisheries in all Union waters, and fisheries for cod in the Baltic). These delegated acts have not yet entered into force. They are subject to the right of the European Parliament and of the Council to express objections, in accordance with Article 290 (2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/discards/index_en.htm</p>	October 2014

Technical Conservation Regulation

Lead	Activity	Timeframe
EU	<p>Omnibus Regulation amending technical measures and control regulations to implement the landing obligation (roadmap).</p> <p>The European Commission has published a roadmap for the Omnibus Regulation amending technical measures and control regulations to implement the landing obligation, which will be the responsibility of DG MARE – Unit A2 (Common Fisheries Policy and Aquaculture). High levels of discards are identified as an important driver of the lack of environmental sustainability of the CFP in the impact assessment carried out for the proposal for the Basic Regulation for the CFP.</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/planned_ia/docs/2013_mare_108_omnibus_tm_and_control_regulations_en.pdf</p>	24 July 2013
EU	<p>Consultation on a new framework for technical measures in the reformed Common Fisheries Policy.</p> <p>The Commission seeks views on the best way forward to modernise and rationalise technical measures in the context of the new CFP. The results of this consultation will serve as input for the development of legislative proposals for a new framework for technical measures. Covers: measures that regulate the design characteristics of gears, such as the regulation of mesh size; measures that regulate the operation of the gear, such as maximum limits on how long or what type of gear can be deployed, and what net can be used; minimum landing sizes; and spatial and temporal controls such as closed/limited entry areas and seasonal closures. http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs_fisheries/consultations/technical-measures/index_en.htm</p>	24 January 2014 to 14 May 2014.
EU	<p>The European Commission welcomes the broad support of the “Omnibus regulation”.</p> <p>The Omnibus Regulation is needed to align the technical and control rules to the new Common Fisheries Policy and notably to the landing obligation which shall apply from 1 January 2015. Once adopted, the new legislation will provide clarification of the legal conditions for fishermen, for control services and for managers in the Member States. The Commission considers that the current compromise is a move in the right direction, although the Commission cannot support derogations that would allow the consumption of undersized fish. Today’s endorsement paves the way for the start of negotiations with the European Parliament. The Commission now looks forward to a swift agreement on the new legislation.</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/mare/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=16842&subweb=343&lang=en</p>	17 June 2014

Key players and activities currently underway to create a pathway to the landing obligation. 15 December 2014.

Lead	Activity	Timeframe
EU	<p>Discussion of draft regulation on the landing obligation in PECH. Article 15 of the basic CFP regulation imposes a landing obligation for all catches. Since this landing obligation conflicts with several EU regulations currently in force, the Commission has brought forward an ‘Omnibus’ regulation which seeks to amend seven regulations in parallel so as to bring them into line with Article 15 of the basic CFP regulation. The current proposal is that the changes made by the omnibus regulation should be strictly limited to implementation of the landing obligation, and only to the fisheries concerned as from 1 January 2015. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/documents/pech/pr/1032/1032048/1032048en.pdf</p>	16 Oct 2014
MRAG	<p>New technical conservation measures framework within a reformed CFP. MRAG Ltd is currently leading a consortium including Oceanic, Poseidon, Lamans International Evaluation Partnership and IREPA to work on a EU Commission contract to undertake evaluations and impact assessments for DG MARE. The consortium is currently working on a study which involves a retrospective evaluation of the current regulatory regime and a prospective evaluation of the likely economic, social and environmental impacts of different policy options proposed for the future technical measures. There is a North Atlantic and North Sea focus to the study. England and Scotland represent two of these national surveys. r.mitchell@mrage.co.uk</p>	2013/2014
EU	<p>Vote in the European Parliament Fisheries Committee. The European Parliament Fisheries Committee voted to amend technical details of the new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) relating to the landing obligation. The amendments passed with 20 in favour, four against and one abstention. The committee decided to delete provisions not strictly relating to 2015 and softened administrative requirements for fishermen. They have also delayed the introduction of sanctions for violation of the discard ban so that fishermen can adapt more easily. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a 50 kilogram minimum threshold amount of catch for reporting purposes. • Provide a two-year window for not complying with the landing obligation. • Limit the application of this regulation to 2015 only, meaning that another proposal will be needed next year. • They also deleted the requirement for fishermen to separate out undersized catches in different boxes. Other changes to the original Commission proposal include the introduction of a mechanism to prevent the development of a parallel market for non-marketable catch. <p>http://cfp-reformwatch.eu/2014/12/dispute-in-parliament-creates-confusion-over-discard-ban/ See: Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the landing obligation. 17 December 2013. http://eur-lex.europa.eu/procedure/EN/1041542;ELX_SESSIONID=JMRkTYJTYymhCy4X4v8MvTTv6LkK8k3HR1v1CJQllv2bTxLzht!-1591263635 Descriptor - Legal cleaning up for landing obligation: moving from landings to catch management (the omnibus proposal). http://cfp-reformwatch.eu/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/COM-EP-Nov-2014-on-Omnibus_with-slides-separated.pdf Proposed amendments 4 November 2014 http://seafish.us8.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=87b1bda9e15e993468c50ac9e&id=8eb4321300&e=cd462d4f4a</p>	3 Dec 2014

Key players and activities currently underway to create a pathway to the landing obligation. 15 December 2014.

PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS/FISHERMEN'S ORGANISATIONS

Lead	Activity	Timeframe
EAPO	<p>European Association of Fish Producers Organisations Agreed to set up an EAPO Co-ordinating Committee to address the needs of the POs and their members in trying to devise mechanisms to implement the landing obligation in an effective and workable manner. The EAPO represents 34 Producers Organisations from 10 EU Member States, with approximately 10,000 vessels, 3.5 million tonnes of landings and a first sale value of €3 billion. http://eapo.com/UserFiles/EAPO%20Press%20Release%2024%20Sep%202013%20-%20EAPO%20AGM.pdf</p>	24 Sept 2013
SAFPO	<p>Scottish Association of Fish Producer Organisations (SAFPO) Specific discard group has been formed, suggested actions have been submitted to Marine Scotland and they have sought (and gained) support from Scottish Fishermen's Federation Discards Focus Group and the West of Scotland Demersal Discards Group. The SAFPO discards project calls for lots more data collection, getting more vessels involved, gap analysis of existing information, self-sampling schemes, on-board handling and stowage and market sampling pilot projects, looking more specifically at what vessels might be disadvantaged. Behavioural changes are not currently possible as it puts vessels at an economic disadvantage as they have to lease extra quota, which reduces the crew share so they may leave. The pilot projects must take account of this and compensate.</p>	
NFFO	<p>NFFO Analysis of potential chokes issues. http://www.nffo.org.uk/news/choke_issues.html</p>	21 February 2014
NFFO	<p>Discard reduction page http://nffo.org.uk/responsible-fishing/discard-reduction</p>	

SCIENTIFIC BODIES

Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)

STECF is advising the Commission on how it can implement the landings obligation at Member States it is also drafting advice to Member States to consider at a regional level.

Lead	Activity	Timeframe
STECF	<p>STECF Terms of Reference for an Expert Working Group 13-16 on a Landing Obligation in EU Fisheries. See page 8.</p> <p>http://nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/STECF%20EWG%2013-16%20TOR.pdf</p>	November 2013
STECF	<p>STECF meeting. 4 to 8 November 2013 in Brussels.</p> <p>Identified most important challenges to address include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining management units (e.g. stocks, areas, fisheries). As an example: the pelagic fisheries should apply the landing obligation from 2015 onwards, and can be approached in many different management units involving very different combinations of Member States and Advisory Councils. Discard plans could possibly be submitted for different combinations of area, species, stock, catching method, vessel type and other relevant aspects of the fishing activity. • Dealing with third countries (e.g. Norway) • Defining Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes (again with no clear objective, but with major implications for the marketing of the catch and the economics of catching businesses) • Develop the criteria to evaluate discard plans (Impact Assessment indicators) • Outlining a process for developing discard plans • The effect of exemptions and de-minimis on control, enforcement and compliance levels <p>Report: Landing obligation in EU fisheries (STECF-13-23)</p> <p>http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/610582/2013-11_STECF+13-23+-+Landing+obligation+in+EU+Fisheries+-+part1_JRCxxx.pdf</p>	4 – 8 November 2013
STECF	<p>STECF meeting. 26 to 28 November 2013 in Dublin. Covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exemptions on the basis of high survivability. • Provisions for de minimis exemptions. • Provisions on documentation of catches. • Analysis of potential chokes issues. <p>Report: Landing Obligation in EU Fisheries - part II (STECF-14-01)</p> <p>http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/633247/2014-02_STECF+14-01+-+Landing+obligations+in+EU+fisheries+-+p2_JRCxxx.pdf</p>	26 – 28 November 2013

Key players and activities currently underway to create a pathway to the landing obligation. 15 December 2014.

Lead	Activity	Timeframe
STECF	<p>Third Expert Group meeting (EWG 14-01) in Varese, Italy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the various elements of the Baltfish draft joint recommendations. • Identify areas where additional supporting information may be required • Review the current scientific knowledge on the survival of salmon and identified small pelagic species and where appropriate, provide guidance on additional scientific information that may be required in support of applications for species specific exemptions based on high survival • Develop an objective framework for setting de minimis levels taking account of the provisions of article 2 of the basic regulation (e.g. FMSY and Precautionary Approach considerations) • Review the control and monitoring issues associated with the documentation of catches to be specified in discard plans • Test this framework using worked examples from Pelagic fisheries and the Baltic Sea. <p>Report Landing Obligations in EU Fisheries - part 3 (STECF-14-06). Reviewed during the plenary meeting held in Brussels, 24-28 March 2014</p> <p>http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/675595/2014-04_STECF+14-06+-+Landing+obligations+in+EU+fisheries_p3_JRC89785.pdf</p>	10 – 14 February 2014
STECF	<p>STECF commentary on pelagic discard plans. July 2014.</p> <p>STECF commentary on the discard plans covers: definitions of fisheries and species, provisions for survivability exemptions, provisions on de minimis exemptions and the fixing of minimum conservation reference sizes. This covers Baltic Sea: fisheries for cod, herring, sprat and salmon page 20 to 22; North Sea: Pelagic fisheries in the North Sea page 22 to 31; North Sea: Industrial fisheries page 31; North West Waters Region: Pelagic Fisheries page 31 to 37.</p> <p>http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/812327/2014-07_STECF+PLEN+14-02_Final+Report_JRCxxx.pdf</p>	July 2014
STECF	<p>STECF sceptic to exclude seal damaged fish from Baltic Sea landing obligation. 25 August 2014.</p> <p>See Baltic Sea section on pages 20-22</p> <p>STECF have raised skepticism on two issues in the BALTFISH discard ban plan for the Baltic Sea; namely, that exemptions for seal damaged fish will make the ban difficult to control and that it is more appropriate to use de minimis rule also for seal damaged fish. These concerns have earlier been called for by FISH, and other NGOs active in the region.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exemptions for seal damaged fish in the plan will make the enforcement of the ban more difficult to control (it will be difficult to evaluate if discarded catch actually is seal damaged or not) and stresses that all catches have to be documented. 2. STECF thinks that it is acceptable to exempt salmon and cod caught in some static cage gears (traps, fykenets etc.) since mortality of discarded fish using these techniques is considered to be low, that is, if caught fish are handled correctly. <p>STECF also notes that they think that it is biologically sound to reduce the minimal conservation reference size (MCRS) for cod from 38 to 35 cm. http://www.fishsec.org/2014/08/25/stecf-sceptic-to-exclude-seal-damaged-fish-from-baltic-sea-landing-obligation/ http://www.fishsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/STECF-PLEN14-02-Final-Report.pdf</p>	

Key players and activities currently underway to create a pathway to the landing obligation. 15 December 2014.

Lead	Activity	Timeframe
STECF	<p>Fourth Expert Group meeting (EWG 14-01) in Varese, Italy http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ewg1411 Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF). Landing Obligations in EU Fisheries - part 4 (STECF-14-19). Reviewed during the plenary meeting held in Brussels, 10-14 November 2014. Terms of reference. Review the current scientific knowledge on the survival of species covered by catch limits in demersal fisheries in the North Sea, North Western Waters and South Western waters; Identify potential discard problems in demersal fisheries in these sea basins that cannot be addressed through improvements in selectivity or would lead to disproportionate costs of sorting unwanted catches on board; Identify species which for quota reasons may lead to restrictions to fishing activities in these sea basins. http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/830996/2014-11_STECF+14-19+-+Landing+Obligations+-+part+4_JRC93045.pdf</p>	8 – 12 September 2014

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

Lead	Activity	Timeframe
ICES	<p>ICES Workshop on Methods for Estimating Discard Survival (WKMEDS). 17-21 February 2014. This workshop will be chaired by Mike Breen (Norway) and Thomas Catchpole (UK), and will work by correspondence as well as a series of meetings during 2014-16. a) Develop guidelines and where possible identify best practice for undertaking discard survival studies (using the framework detailed in the report of STECF Expert Working Group EWG 13-16) (2014 Workshop); b) Identify approaches for measuring and reducing, or accounting for, the uncertainty associated with mortality estimates; c) Critically review current estimates of discard mortality, with reference to the guidelines detailed in 1, and collate existing validated mortality estimates; d) Conduct a meta-analysis, using the data detailed in 3, to improve the understanding of the explanatory variables associated with discard mortality and identifying potential mitigation measures; and e) Based on ToR a) to d) a CRR should be developed for SCICOM consideration. WKMEDS will initially focus on developing guidelines, and identifying best practice, for undertaking experiments to investigate the survival of organisms discarded from the catches of commercial fisheries. These guidelines will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the selection and measurement of the likely explanatory variables influencing discard survival; 2. methods for observing the survival of test subjects in captivity in the laboratory and in the field; 3. methods for estimating mortality indirectly from assessments of vitality (e.g. RAMP); 4. methods for estimating survival using tagging and biotelemetry; and 5. statistical techniques for analysing binomial data, including consideration of experimental design (e.g. defining necessary sample size and replication). <p>For further information E: wgftfb@googlegroups.com</p>	17 – 21 February 2014

Key players and activities currently underway to create a pathway to the landing obligation. 15 December 2014.

SELECTIVITY AND DATA COLLECTION TRIALS AND REGIONAL PROJECTS (other projects under devolved administrations)

Lead	Activity	Timeframe
Cefas	<p>Northwest Discards trial. Skippers from Whitehaven and Maryport asked Cefas scientists to help them improve their trawl design to avoid discards, particularly of small plaice and dab before they reached marketable size. In response, Cefas set up a project to minimise catches of unwanted fish in the northwest English Nephrops trawl fishery; and the NFFO appointed a co-ordinator to oversee gear trials. After a trawl gear training course at the Sintef Flume Tank in Denmark, co-ordinated by Seafish, each skipper, helped by Cefas, developed their own trawl design. Nine vessels did 21 trials of the new nets – the equivalent of 424 hauls from 214 days’ fishing. None of the designs reduced the catches of <i>Nephrops</i> but did radically cut discards, for example by up to 82% for plaice by weight. A square mesh section design is now being included in the Cod Recovery Scheme as a highly selective gear for use in <i>Nephrops</i> fisheries.</p>	<p>July 2013 Report due early 2014</p>
NFFO/ Seafish	<p>South West Regional Discard Action Group, held meetings in July and October. An NFFO pilot project supported by Seafish. The aim of the project was to provide all primary stakeholders with a facilitated forum to explore in detail the practical issues likely to face the SW fleet when the landings obligation / discard ban agreed under the new CFP is implemented. The meeting heard that the project was running in parallel to initiatives in the North Sea being led by the North Sea RAC to encourage dialogue on the practicalities of a discard ban between those potentially affected by the ban.</p>	<p>Meetings July and October 2013</p>
Cefas	<p>Cefas 2013/2014 Fisheries Science Partnership projects. http://www.cefas.defra.gov.uk/industry-information/fisheries-science-partnership/current-programme.aspx</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project 39: Area VII Haddock Discard Eliminations Using Technical Measures The aim of this project will be to research optimum whitefish trawl setups with the objective of reducing the number of high grade haddock discards whilst landing commercially viable catches. Timing: July to October 13. Vessel: Ocean Spirit. • Project 37: North East Coast Net Grid Trials The primary aim of this project will be to develop the net grid design so that it can meet the objectives of significantly reducing catches of cod in the English NE Nephrops trawl fishery, while being considered practical and acceptable by the fishers who will have to use it. Timing: during September to December 13 period. Vessel: Aquarius II. 	<p>2013/2014</p>
Devon and Cornwall	<p>Devon Fishermen deliver responsible and sustainable – ‘no discard fisheries’ This project has been partnered by fishermen from Devon and Cornwall and is a continued evolution of the ‘Project 50’ work completed in 2011. Southwest skippers have developed highly selective fishing gear and have adjusted the way in which they fish to deliver what is being hailed as a ‘zero discard fishery’ – this work has been validated by UK authorities with results taken from the mixed demersal fisheries around South Devon and Cornwall. The project has required Skippers to operate as a ‘Fully Documented Fishery’. andrew@interfish.co.uk</p>	<p>2013</p>

Key players and activities currently underway to create a pathway to the landing obligation. 15 December 2014.

Lead	Activity	Timeframe
GAP2	<p>Fishermen, Scientists and Policy Makers Join Forces to make Reformed CFP a Reality. GAP2 meeting, bringing together Europe’s fishermen and their representatives with policy makers and scientists. The meeting’s purpose will be for attendees to address how they, collectively, can collate the information necessary to make the new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) work in practice - despite historical tensions between their sectors. The result of the day will be a set of points of consensus about the next steps that need to be taken. These will be shared with all relevant parties. http://gap2.eu/gap2general/policy-briefing-1-participatory-research-as-a-foundation-for-the-regionalization-of-cfp-in-europe/ The GAP2 first Policy Briefing looks at how participatory research could underpin the successful implementation of reformed and increasingly regionalized Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). http://gap2.eu/gap2wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Gap2-policy-brief1-KB-edit.pdf</p>	26 February 2014
Cefas	<p>Fisheries Science Partnership discards related project ideas. Reminder - closing date 16 May 2014.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSP41 Area VII Haddock Discard Elimination Using Technical Measures • FSP42 Aligning Spurdog Management with the Landing Obligation under the Reformed Common Fisheries Policy • FSP43 North East Coast Study On The Survival Of Discards <p>Invitation to Tender documents can be obtained from the tender invitations page, along with copies of the draft contract terms and conditions. http://www.cefas.defra.gov.uk/industry-information/fisheries-science-partnership.aspx</p>	16 May 2014
Cefas	<p>SW Haddock Otter Trawl ASSIST Project. Closing date 16 May 2014. Following industry meetings in Newlyn in February 2014 Cefas is calling for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from skippers/owner of otter trawlers in the Mevagissey and Looe areas to participate in gear trials to reduce haddock discards and smaller grades. Skippers will need to demonstrate credible ideas to reduce haddock catches on suitable vessels, which can be used to help prepare for the landings obligation commencing 2016 for demersal fisheries. To register your interest E: simon.armstrong@cefas.co.uk M: 07979 575776</p>	16 May 2014
Cefas	<p>Fisheries Science Partnership - Single Year Project Tenders for 2014/15 – discard related. Closing date 16 May 2014. Following evaluation of the project ideas submitted in January 2014, and the selection of priority ideas for the 2014/15 programme, Cefas, on behalf of Defra, invites skippers and owners of commercial fishing vessels to take part in a programme of fisheries research and thus invite submission of tenders for the Financial Year 2014/15 programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSP41 Area VII Haddock Discard Elimination Using Technical Measures • FSP42 Aligning Spurdog Management with the Landing Obligation under the Reformed Common Fisheries Policy • FSP43 North East Coast Study On The Survival Of Discards <p>Invitation to Tender documents can be obtained from the tender invitations page, along with copies of the draft contract terms and conditions. The closing date for submission of tenders is Friday 16th May 2014. http://www.cefas.defra.gov.uk/industry-information/fisheries-science-partnership.aspx</p>	16 May 2014

Key players and activities currently underway to create a pathway to the landing obligation. 15 December 2014.

Lead	Activity	Timeframe
Cefas	<p>Catch comparison of Quad and Twin-rig trawls in the Celtic Sea Nephrops fishery. Significant reductions of cod by 61%, haddock by 38% and an increase in Nephrops by 54% in the Quad-rig Increased proportions of juvenile fish and Nephrops in the Quad-rig require further investigation. The trial was carried out onboard the MFV Celtic Chieftain, a 22m trawler from Clogherhead, County Louth.</p> <p>http://www.bim.ie/media/bim/content/publications/Catch%20comparison%20of%20Quad%20and%20Twin-rig%20trawls%20in%20the%20Celtic%20Sea%20Nephrops%20fishery%20Trial%20Report%202014.pdf</p>	29 Aug 2014
Cefas	<p>Fishermen are invited to propose Fisheries Science Partnership project ideas for 2015/16. Closing date is 23 January 2015. Cefas and the FSP panel are keen to see proposals that will help the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy reform especially innovative approaches to the forthcoming demersal landing obligation or discard ban. Project examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed-fishery and regional approaches • Selectivity improvements (including new gear) • Discard-survivability studies • Spatial adaptations • Emerging issues in support of the Advisory Councils (ACs). <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fisheries-science-partnership-fsp-seeking-project-ideas</p>	28 Nov 2014

Key players and activities currently underway to create a pathway to the landing obligation. 15 December 2014.

Seafish

Lead	Activity	Timeframe
Seafish	<p>Seafish-funded Poseidon report</p> <p>Case studies conducted by Poseidon to look at the potential impact of the landing obligation on the Irish Sea <i>Nephrops</i>, North Sea TR1 (>100mm) and the North Sea TR1 (>100mm) fisheries. Various scenarios have been modelled including: status quo; with choke species (current quota and swaps); no choke species (quota can be leased in (a) all landed (b) constant volume; quota uplift; flexibility; de minimis; and all the various combinations.</p> <p>http://www.seafish.org/media/Publications/Poseidon_Landings_Obligation_Economic_Impact_JAN_2014_FINAL.pdf</p>	Published 24 January 2014
Seafish	<p>Economic Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Landings Obligation on the UK fishing fleet and onshore sector</p> <p>Comprehensive Economic Impact Assessment (EIA) of a move from status quo fisheries management measures to various potential scenarios under the new CFP Landings Obligation (LO). The analysis will provide;</p> <p>A) Sufficient evidence base for input into the formulation of adequate regional discard plans that will need to be submitted to COM in mid-2015 b) An overall assessment of the likely new equilibrium 'balance' situation between fleet capacity and the new fishing opportunities available under the LO (i.e. given that everything now needs to be landed, will it be possible to have a profitable fleet and onshore sector that contains the same number of vessels and processing units, operating in the same fisheries and doing the same activities?) c) Identification of key challenges for industry and government with regards to the implementation of the LO.</p>	Started July 2014. Due to complete Mar 2015
Seafish/ Cefas	<p>Bulk uses study</p> <p>Study to identify commercially available bulk uses or outlets for discards that may be landed, and then assess the feasibility of accessing these bulk outlets. http://www.seafish.org/media/publications/SR661_Utilising_Discards_bulk_uses.pdf</p>	Published 2013
Seafish/ NFFO	<p>The use of discards in bait</p> <p>This study explores the potential for species and quantities of fish predicted to be landed under the future landings obligation by the English fleet and not sold for human consumption, to be used as bait in pot fisheries.</p> <p>http://www.seafish.org/media/Publications/SR668_use_of_discards_in_bait.pdf</p>	Published 2014
Seafish	<p>Discard Action Group</p> <p>Seafish facilitates a specialist Discard Action Group (DAG) which is working collaboratively with stakeholders to propose potential solutions and possible routes forward using these, and other, data. In particular DAG is working across the supply chain to facilitate discussion to help develop a pathway to a landings obligation that is practical and workable for the UK seafood industry.</p> <p>http://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/conserving-fish-stocks/discards/the-discard-action-group DAG briefing notes: http://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/conserving-fish-stocks/discards/discards-under-cfp-reform</p>	Mar, July and Nov 2014
Seafish/ Cefas	<p>UK Gear selectivity database</p> <p>Cefas and Seafish are collaborating on the database which will map gear and selectivity options. The aim is to add the database to the website by the end of the summer. It will also link in with the Seafish Risk Assessment for Sourcing Seafood (RASS) project.</p>	During 2014

Key players and activities currently underway to create a pathway to the landing obligation. 15 December 2014.

OTHERS

Lead	Activity	Timeframe
EDF	Environmental Defense Fund paper. Possible solutions for industry in implementing the requirements of the landing obligation. http://www.seafish.org/media/1148598/dagmar14_edfdiscardreductiontoolkit.pdf The discard reduction toolkit is intended to be a practical guide for fishermen and managers based round the requirements of four 'baskets' of fish: 1.You catch fish, but its more than your quota; 2.You haven't got/can't source quota for a species you catch; 3.You catch undersized or prohibited species; 4.You catch non-quota species not subject to the landings obligation.	2014

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