

Seafish Discard Action Group

2 April 2019



Shetland: small islands a long way from most of Europe's people...



... but not from its fish

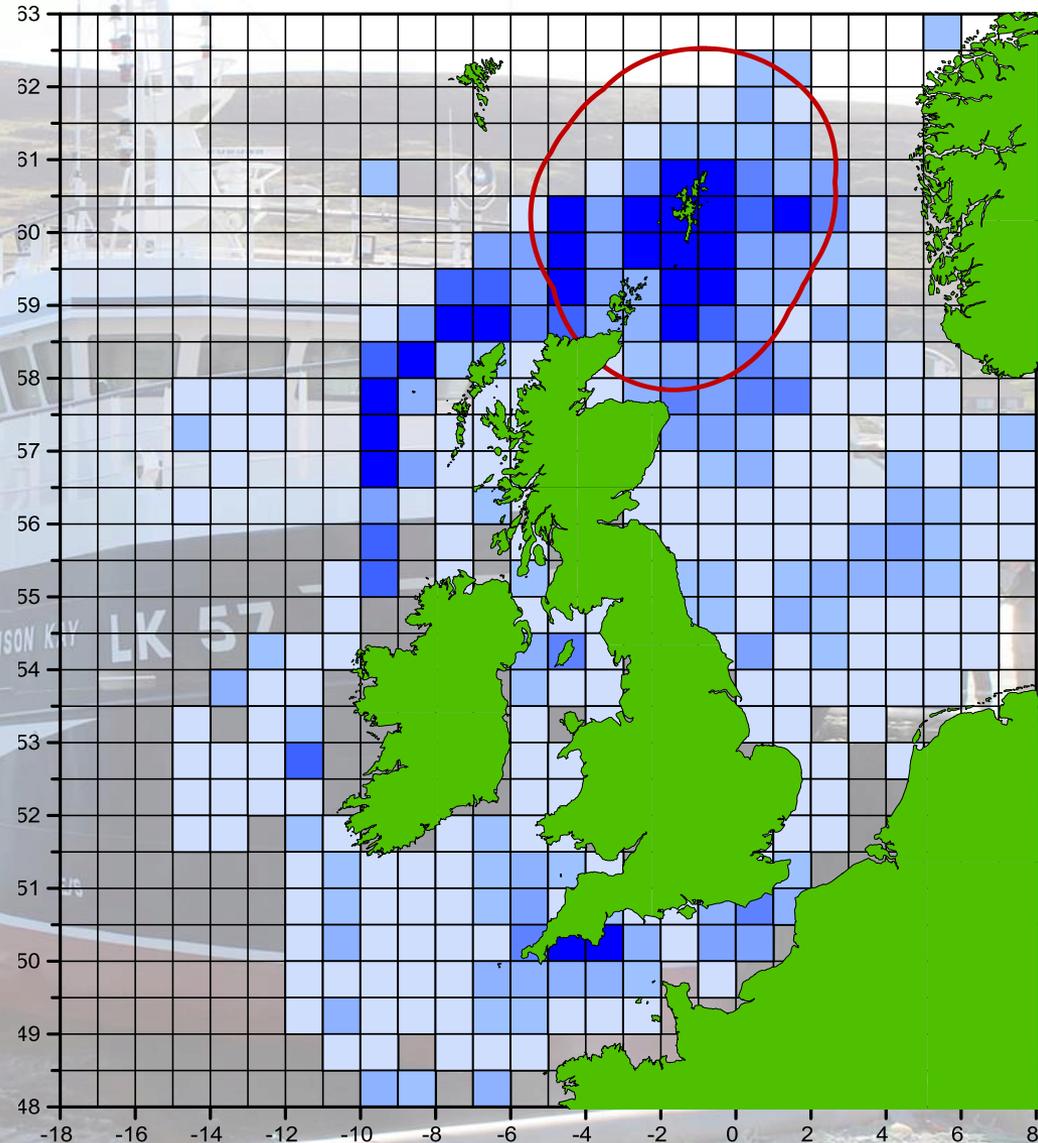
Local abundance of several key pelagic and demersal species and healthy shellfish stocks

Highly mixed demersal fishery;

- over 20 commercial species landed regularly
- studies show high (5+) average mix of species per tow

Very long fishing tradition:

- evidence of subsistence fishing 4,500 years ago
- meaningful commercial operations for around 1,000 years



A very diverse, locally-owned fishing fleet



8 pelagic midwater trawlers

25 demersal vessels

120+ small, inshore vessels (mix of static gear & jigging)



ALISON KAY LK 57

A problem - and an opportunity

A very perverse problem:

- The more diverse & productive a fishery is, the more difficult it is to make the CFP's landing obligation work
- Choke species issue well understood
- Low diversity & dwindling stocks ideal! Hurting the wrong people...

The opportunity for change

- Scottish government invitation to industry
- Cab Sec Ewing commitment



Views from the wheelhouse

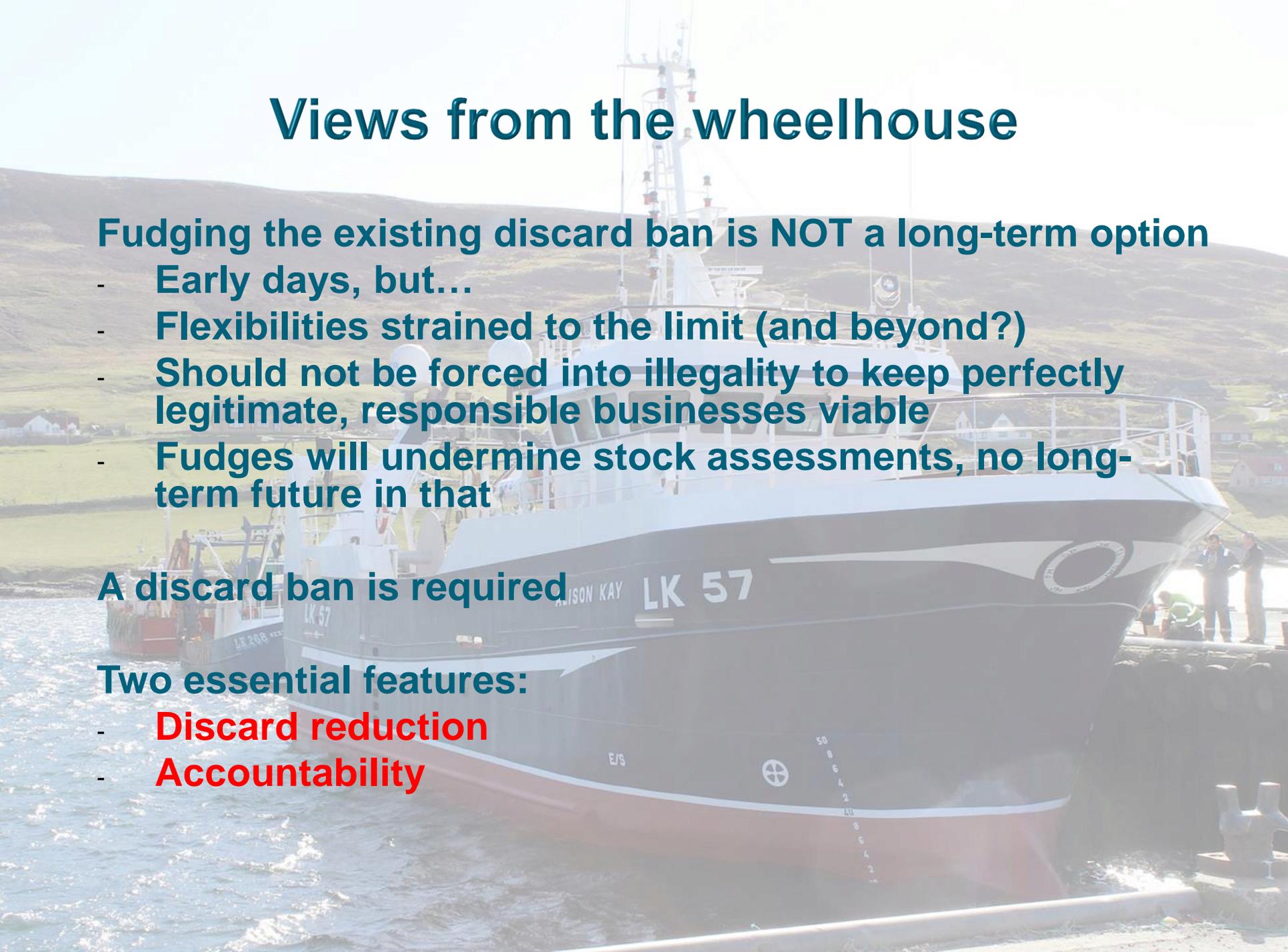
Fudging the existing discard ban is NOT a long-term option

- Early days, but...
- Flexibilities strained to the limit (and beyond?)
- Should not be forced into illegality to keep perfectly legitimate, responsible businesses viable
- Fudges will undermine stock assessments, no long-term future in that

A discard ban is required

Two essential features:

- **Discard reduction**
- **Accountability**



Reference fleets: tying it all together

Discard reduction

- Continuing long-term progress
- Packages of agreed management measures, tailored to individual fisheries
- Role of government in securing zonal attachment shares
- Compliance = enforcing these measures, not unworkable regulations

Accountability

- Cameras vs. tally books vs. observers
- Science & intelligent feedback
- Ambition for cooperation



Our version of the reference fleet

Not quite Norwegian...

- A mobile observer corps, paid for by industry
- Tailored by fleet segment

Issues

- Observer status
- Fleet coverage
- Training & availability



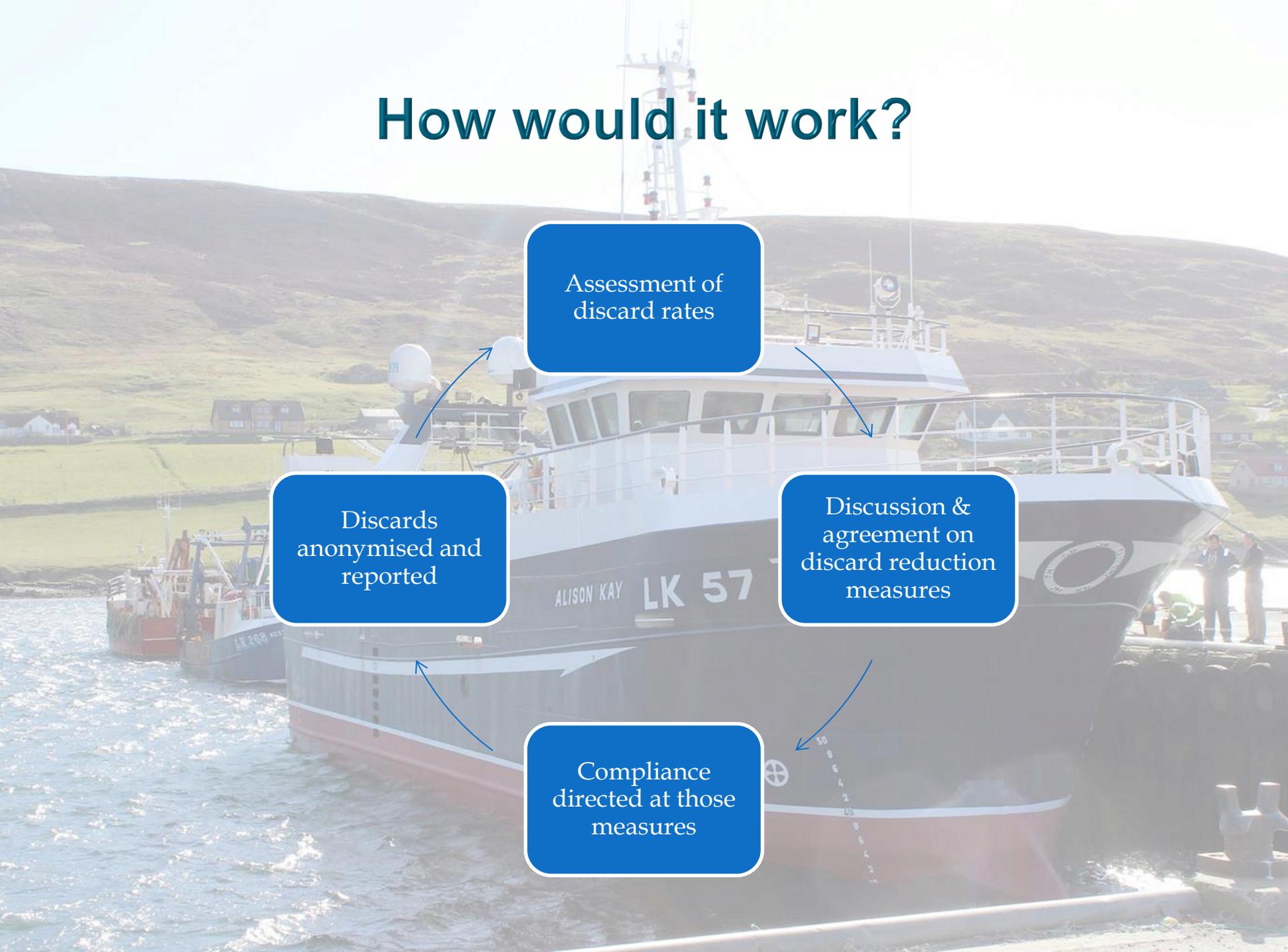
How would it work?

Assessment of
discard rates

Discards
anonymised and
reported

Discussion &
agreement on
discard reduction
measures

Compliance
directed at those
measures



A small reminder....

“Indigenous people and their communities... have a vital role in environmental management and development because of their knowledge and traditional practices.”

- 1992 Rio Declaration

