



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Landing Obligation

Implementation in 2019

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England



NATURAL
ENGLAND



Environment
Agency

Landing Obligation - 2019

Background

- First year of full implementation
- Regional Groups
 - North Sea
 - North Western Waters
- Informing the fishing industry of their responsibilities under the landing obligation.
 - Guidance
 - Education

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Current policy approach

- Increased engagement with the industry through:
 - Creation of a Landing Obligation Forum with the catching sector
 - Targeted consultations with fishermen in specific regions
 - Meetings with the retailers, processors and eNGOs
- Bycatch reduction plans (for zero TAC advice stocks)
- Reserve quota policy
 - Due to consult for 2020

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Reserve quota

- Previously ‘uplift’ quota provided by Commission
- Defra has done its own calculations for uplift – devolved policy
- Main aims:
 - Help alleviate choke risks
 - Incentivise more sustainable fishing
- How?
 - Encourage use of highly selective gears / FDF participation
 - Support the inshore fleet
 - Information (evidence) gathering

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Reserve quota

- Top slice (first 100 tonnes and 10% thereafter) for non-sector applied to all eligible stocks*
- Reduced top slice applied to some stocks where appropriate
- For some stocks, reserve quota held in a pool and rest allocated through FQAs
- * No reserve quota where:
 - subject to bycatch pool TACs (e.g. Celtic Sea cod, Irish Sea whiting)
 - discard rate is 0%
 - no known discard rate
 - full exemption from the Landing Obligation
 - stock managed at the UK level

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Regional consultation

- Alongside this domestic work, we have been working on processing bycatch reduction plans (BCRPs)
- Assessment and consultation with industry to tie together the need for bycatch reduction plans with other policy measures, e.g. reserve quota, so a coherent approach is taken
- South West consultation was very positive and generated a number of ideas on selectivity improvements and evidence gathering

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International quota swaps (IQS)

- Facilitated earlier access to IQS through pre-provisional quota allocations in February
 - In part in response to no deal planning, as there will be no automatic access for the UK Fisheries Administrations to IQS
- Across Fisheries Administrations, we have also been considering the implications of requests for IQS in light of current choke threats
- We are currently engaging industry on principles that would underpin the decision to prevent an IQS from happening, and a list of stocks it might apply to, where it is in the national interest to do so
- Intention is to prevent exacerbation of critical choke risks

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Parliamentary Enquiry

- “Fisheries: implementation and enforcement of the EU landing obligation” published 08 February 2019
- “The EU fisheries landing obligation: six months on” published on 16th July 2019
- Defra landing obligation team currently assessing measures to address the outputs of the enquiry
- All reports available on www.parliament.uk

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Control & Enforcement

Using an educational based approach

- The landing obligation came into full effect in 2019, with some sectors of the industry only now having to comply.
- Therefore, much of 2018 and the early months of 2019 have been focused on ensuring fishers had the right information to be able to comply with the new requirements.
- Such information was provided through practical guidance outlining the requirements of the EU discard plans; face to face meetings, including the ‘Landing Obligation Forum’ and the ‘Net to Plate’ workshop, and through social media .

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Moving towards a more enforcement-centred approach

- Following this initial period of education, in English waters the MMO is now moving towards a more enforcement-centred approach - where control and enforcement efforts will be increased to identify non-compliance and to improve the accuracy of catch recording, particularly in high risk fisheries.
- This enforcement-centred approach includes recording the last-hauled catch on vessels to assess the catch profile (rather than only what has been retained on board); increasing the number of inspections of landings and at sea; rolling out the under 10m catch reporting system, introducing inshore vessel monitoring systems (IVMS), and increasing our scientific evidence base of the state of our stocks.

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Impact of our compliance and enforcement approach

- At this point in the year, through our contact with industry and from MMO's data on discarding activity, we are seeing increased engagement with the requirements of the landing obligation and believe there is greater effort being made to comply
- eg market for stocks below MCRS spp is slowly growing, such as for pot bait, and infrastructural changes are being made, with storage bins being increasingly installed at landing stages.

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Remote Electronic Monitoring

- We are currently exploring the potential use of Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM), alongside other monitoring and enforcement tools, as a cost-effective and efficient way of monitoring fishing activity and ensuring compliance.
- Some trials on REM have already been undertaken and have reduced discarding rates significantly eg in a number of fisheries throughout the UK since 2011 and in the English North Sea as part of a Fully Documented Fisheries (FDF) scheme, managed by the MMO