SEAFISH
the authority on seafood

Research & Development

Fact sheet

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Landings declaration ready reckoner

A new EU Control Regulation came into effect on 1 January 2010 to create a more efficient system to control fisheries across Europe. This sits alongside the new IUU Regulation and the new Council Regulation on fishing authorisations.

An important part of the new Control Regulation is the permitted margin of tolerance it stipulates between the logbook estimate and the actual landing declaration. The regulation allows 10 per cent for all fish stocks. This applies to vessels over 10 metres.

Whilst the need to keep records is paramount for fishermen this raises a number of issues and concerns due to the inherent difficulty of weighing at sea; the tendency for fish to lose weight during a trip through natural drainage; variability in the natural state of fish; the effect of melting ice; restricted fish room space and the impact of adverse weather.

A two step approach

Seafish suggests a two step approach:

1. Estimating the weight at landing - allowing for weight loss

There is a tendency for fish to lose weight through natural drainage. It is therefore essential that an allowance is made for weight loss between catching and landing in port up to eight days later. As a guide:

Days on ice	Whitefish	Whole monkfish
1-2 days	1.5-2.5 %	6-8 %
2-8 days	3-3.5 %	8-11 %

As an example:

- 45 kg of cod was caught for landing in port five days later;
- An allowance of 3.5% should be assumed for weight/drip loss reducing 45 kg to 43.5 kg;

2. Use the Seafish ready reckoner to work back the weight at landing to the live weight equivalent

The ready reckoner overleaf has been prepared to help fishermen calculate live weight from a known landing weight in 5 kg increments. For exact figures there is a Seafish live weight calculator for download and use in the wheelhouse.

- Assuming a conversion factor of 1.17 the logbook estimate for that 45 kg of cod would be 52.7 kg to tie in with the live weight landings declaration.

Reasons for weight loss

- In trials on imported cod and haddock, haddock consistently lost 1-2% more weight than cod, which was further increased with additional handling.
- Condition or softness of certain species may vary throughout the year which affects susceptibility.
- Trawled fish may be more susceptible than line caught.
- Washing and type of ice can also have an impact.
- Fish stored at the bottom of 660L bin may lose up to 2% more weight than fish stored in the top layer

Calculating live weight from a known landed weight (kg)

Example (in yellow): landing a 40kg box of gutted cod is equivalent to 46.8kg live wight

Species	Code	Preparation	Conversion factor	Box / landed weight												
			1	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60
Monk	ANF	gutted	1.22	6.1	12.2	18.3	24.4	30.5	36.6	42.7	48.8	54.9	61	67.1	73.2
		tails	3	15	30	45	60	75	90	105	120	135	150	165	180
Blue Ling	BLI	gutted	1.17	5.9	11.7	17.6	23.4	29.3	35.1	41.0	46.8	52.7	58.5	64.4	70.2
Brill	BLL	gutted	1.09	5.5	10.9	16.4	21.8	27.3	32.7	38.2	43.6	49.1	54.5	60.0	65.4
Cod	COD	gutted	1.17	5.9	11.7	17.6	23.4	29.3	35.1	41.0	**46.8**	52.7	58.5	64.4	70.2
Conger Eel	COE	gutted	1.125	5.6	11.3	16.9	22.5	28.1	33.8	39.4	45.0	50.6	56.3	61.9	67.5
Flounder	FLE	gutted	1.08	5.4	10.8	16.2	21.6	27.0	32.4	37.8	43.2	48.6	54.0	59.4	64.8
Haddock	HAD	gutted	1.17	5.9	11.7	17.6	23.4	29.3	35.1	41.0	46.8	52.7	58.5	64.4	70.2
Hake	HKE	gutted	1.11	5.6	11.1	16.7	22.2	27.8	33.3	38.9	44.4	50.0	55.5	61.1	66.6
Halibut	HAL	gutted	1.08	5.4	10.8	16.2	21.6	27	32.4	37.8	43.2	48.6	54	59.4	64.8
Lemon Sole	LEM	gutted	1.05	5.3	10.5	15.8	21.0	26.3	31.5	36.8	42.0	47.3	52.5	57.8	63.0
Ling	LIN	gutted	1.14	5.7	11.4	17.1	22.8	28.5	34.2	39.9	45.6	51.3	57.0	62.7	68.4
Megrim	LEZ	gutted	1.06	5.3	10.6	15.9	21.2	26.5	31.8	37.1	42.4	47.7	53.0	58.3	63.6
Nephrops	NEP	tails	3	15	30	45	60	75	90	105	120	135	150	165	180
Plaice	PLE	gutted	1.05	5.3	10.5	15.8	21.0	26.3	31.5	36.8	42.0	47.3	52.5	57.8	63.0
Pollack	POL	gutted	1.17	5.9	11.7	17.6	23.4	29.3	35.1	41.0	46.8	52.7	58.5	64.4	70.2
Saithe	POK	gutted	1.19	6.0	11.9	17.9	23.8	29.8	35.7	41.7	47.6	53.6	59.5	65.5	71.4
Skates & rays		gutted	1.13	5.7	11.3	17.0	22.6	28.3	33.9	39.6	45.2	50.9	56.5	62.2	67.8
		wings	2.09	10.5	20.9	31.4	41.8	52.3	62.7	73.2	83.6	94.1	104.5	115.0	125.4
Sole	SOL	gutted	1.04	5.2	10.4	15.6	20.8	26.0	31.2	36.4	41.6	46.8	52.0	57.2	62.4
Spurdogs	DGS	gutted	1.35	6.8	13.5	20.3	27.0	33.8	40.5	47.3	54.0	60.8	67.5	74.3	81.0
		skinned	2.52	12.6	25.2	37.8	50.4	63.0	75.6	88.2	100.8	113.4	126.0	138.6	151.2
Tope	GAG	gutted	1.125	5.6	11.3	16.9	22.5	28.1	33.8	39.4	45.0	50.6	56.3	61.9	67.5
Turbot	TUR	gutted	1.09	5.5	10.9	16.4	21.8	27.3	32.7	38.2	43.6	49.1	54.5	60.0	65.4
Whiting	WHG	gutted	1.18	5.9	11.8	17.7	23.6	29.5	35.4	41.3	47.2	53.1	59.0	64.9	70.8
Witch	WIT	gutted	1.06	5.3	10.6	15.9	21.2	26.5	31.8	37.1	42.4	47.7	53.0	58.3	63.6

To download the calculator go to the catching sector page of the Seafish B2B web site at:

http://www.seafish.org/b2b/area.asp?p=83

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