



The Landing Obligation in 2019

BARRIE DEAS

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FISHERMEN'S ORGANISATIONS

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- ▶ LO applies to quota species in the demersal fisheries
- ▶ Followed a 4-year lead-in period
- ▶ Important high survival and *de minimis* exemptions
- ▶ TAC status removed from Dab
- ▶ Decision made to exclude seabass from the LO

10 months of the LO

- ▶ No serious chokes have emerged
- ▶ Lead-in period served to understand some the complexities of applying a LO in mixed fisheries
- ▶ Potential for chokes recognized more clearly
- ▶ Choke identification tools
- ▶ High Survival and *de minimis* exemptions have been critical in mitigating chokes – esp. skates and rays and plaice

Has the LO driven change?

- ▶ No comprehensive data
- ▶ Probably a mixed picture
- ▶ Improved selectivity – over last 20 years
- ▶ Avoidance – major factor – not easy to model
- ▶ Easy fisheries/difficult fisheries
- ▶ Illicit discarding in specific circumstances

Selectivity

- ▶ Prescriptive measures which lead to a reduction in marketable catch rarely deliver
- ▶ The mindset in the wheelhouse matters
- ▶ There has been a general increase in selectivity over 20 years
- ▶ Fish below MCRS are not a major feature
- ▶ Options are available but vary fishery by fishery
- ▶ Never-ending quest – light - the next frontier

Avoiding unwanted catch

- ▶ Extremely important
- ▶ Based on operational decisions
- ▶ Formal structures (eg RTCs)
- ▶ Spatial
- ▶ Temporal (e.g. avoiding haddock rich areas at night)

Waypoints

- ▶ Zero Catch Advice in mixed fisheries/Bycatch reduction plans
- ▶ 1st House of Lords Report
- ▶ Commission Seminar, Brussels, 14th June
- ▶ Second House of Lords Report
- ▶ Establishment of Landing Obligation Forum (English fisheries)
- ▶ Joint Recommendations
- ▶ STECF
- ▶ Delegated Act
- ▶ ICES advice for 2020

Scheveningen Group of Member States

- ▶ Joint Recommendations/Delegated Acts
- ▶ Focus on High Survival and *de minimis* exemptions
- ▶ High bar for exemptions: 50 page justification (STECF)
- ▶ Limited focus on technical measures
- ▶ Rotating chair
- ▶ Unanimity

House of Lords Reports

- ▶ Superficial
- ▶ Classic dust gatherers
- ▶ Failed to address design faults in the LO obligation
- ▶ Lazy conclusions – CCTV as a panacea, without addressing any of the issues associated

Enforcement: Two Schools

- ▶ "We can't police our way out of this"
- ▶ "Requires a major cultural shift"
- ▶ Extremely complex
- ▶ Work collaboratively to address the issues
- ▶ REM has a role to play but not as a top-down control

Alternative view: CCTV as a panacea but legal, ethical and practical issues

Landing Obligation Forum

- ▶ Defra/MMO/NFFO/UKAFPO
- ▶ Dialogue between regulators and regulated
- ▶ Problem identification
- ▶ Problem solving
- ▶ Recording of discards on electronic logbooks
- ▶ Co-ownership of the problems
- ▶ Co-management

Looking forward

- ▶ ICES advice on cod – major choke risks for 2020
- ▶ EU/Norway and December Council
- ▶ MSY requirement by 2020 – but not the only legal obligation
- ▶ Mixed fishery issues
- ▶ In fisheries where uplifts and illicit discarding, will lead to an increase in fishing mortality – lower TACS
- ▶ Future of Exemptions - critical
- ▶ Brexit/Fisheries Bill – scope for a more workable LO?

Thank you

