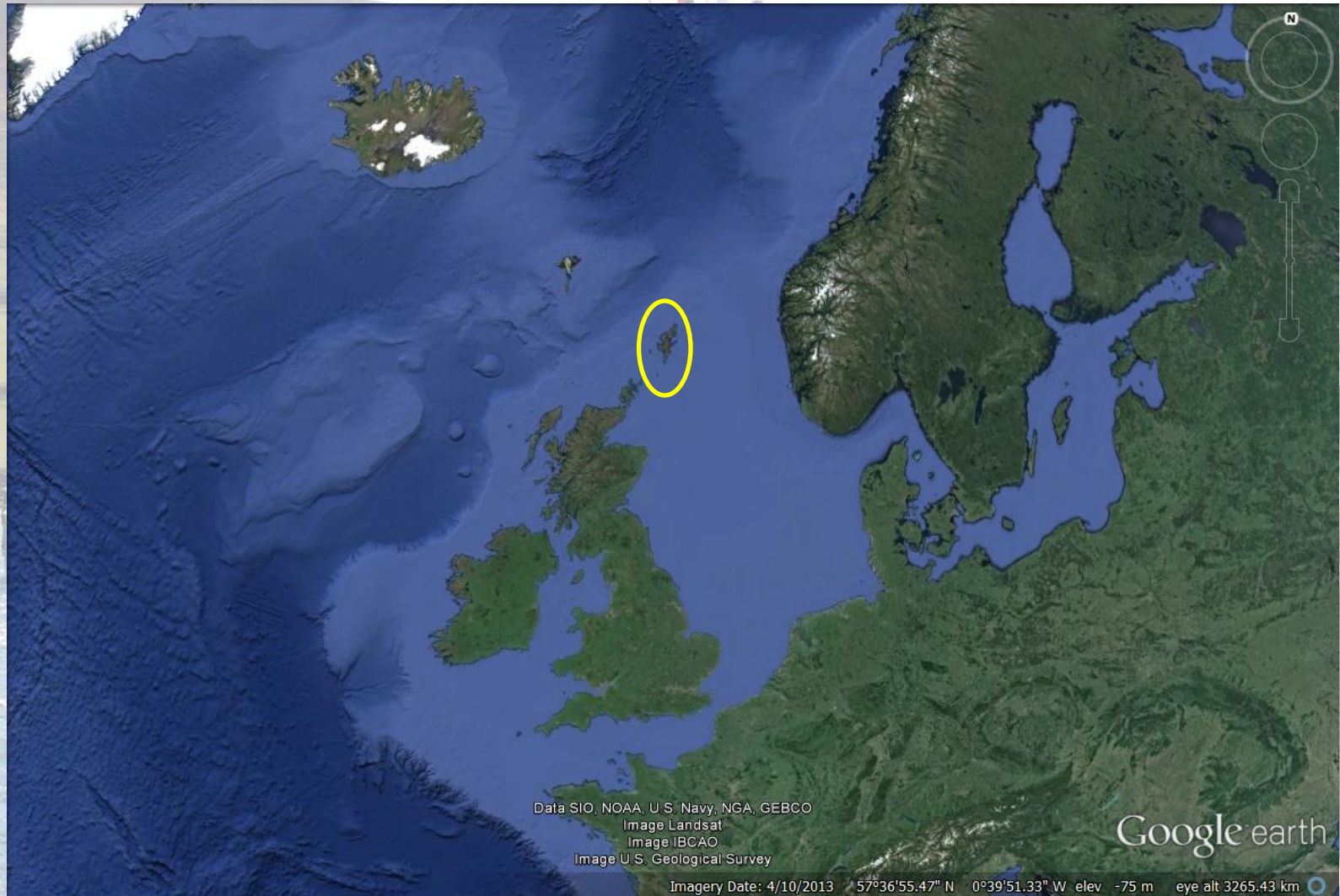


# Seafish Discard Action Group

2 April 2019



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





# ... but not from its fish

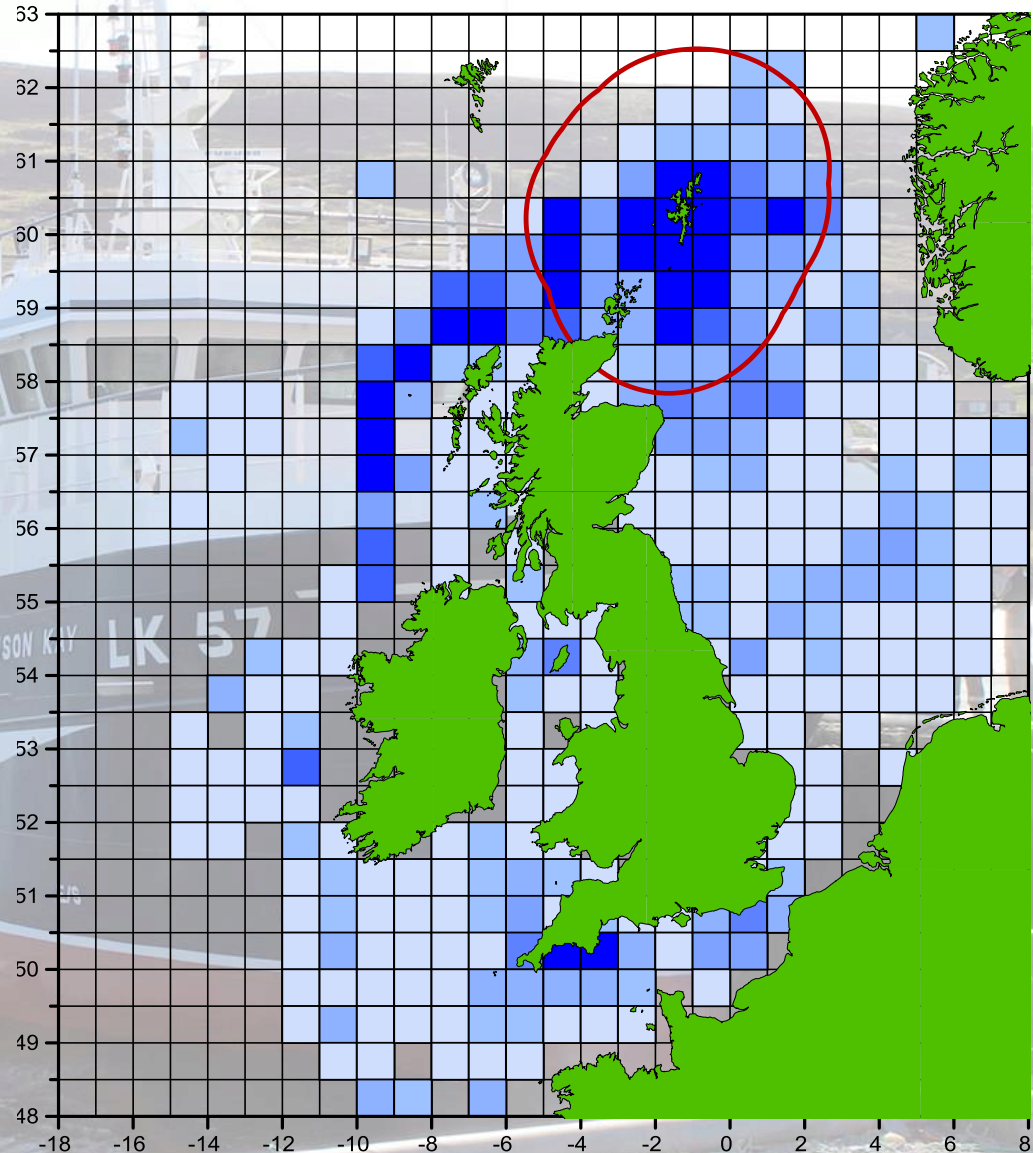
**Local abundance** of several key pelagic and demersal species and healthy shellfish stocks

**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)





# 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

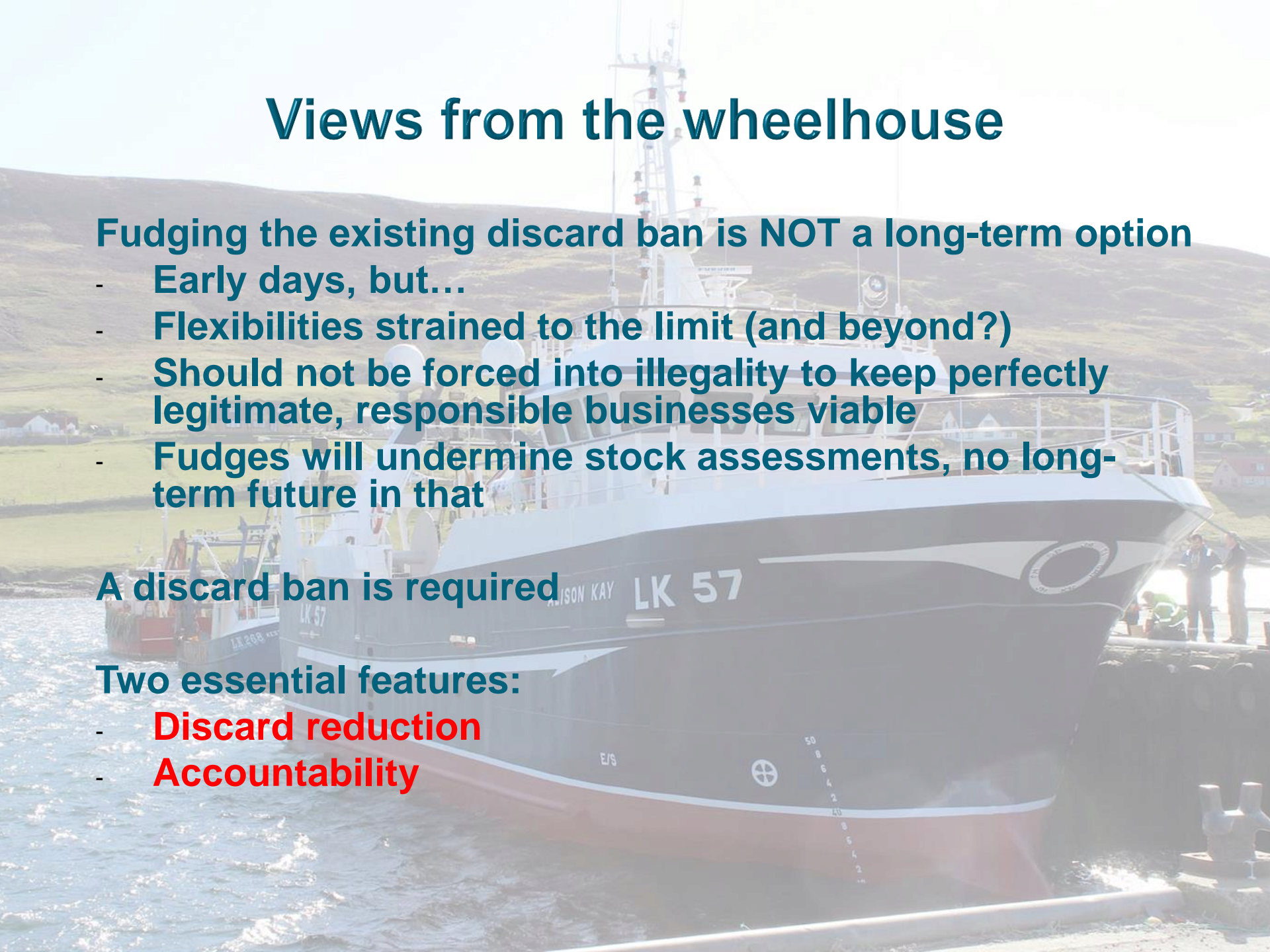
**Fudging the existing discard ban is NOT a long-term option**

- **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

