The evolution of a discard policy in Europe

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Discards in EC waters

- Presently legal (one exception)
- Compulsory by management
  - TACs & quotas
  - MLS
  - bycatch restrictions
- Economic value (highgrading)
Communication 2007

REDUCTION OF DISCARDS
Reduction of unwanted catch

REDUCTION of fishing MORTALITY
Implementation 2008

Fisheries by fisheries

Discard reduction targets
The 2008 incident....

The Prolific could have been discarding fish for which it had no quota, but some have accused the crew of ‘high-grading’ its catch.
Public reaction (2008)...

Disgraceful Waste: Fish Discards Caught on Film
Category: Seafood
Posted on: August 14, 2008 10:08 PM, by Jennifer L. Jacquet

A British trawler was caught on film dumping tons of cod and other white fish overboard. This wasteful practice of discarding 'bycatch' is the result of catching fish that are too small (according to regulations) or unmarketable. The film caused quite the uproar, though it should be noted that this absurdity occurs frequently in waters all around the world and is most common in shrimp fisheries. The Sea Around Us Project's Dirk Zeller and Daniel Pauly published a paper in 2005 on how discards are declining globally but that this decrease is not exactly a grand accomplishment given that total catches are also declining...

Norway determined to reduce discards of fish

Following a recent observation of a foreign vessel discarding large quantities of fish caught within the Norwegian Exclusive Economic Zone, a...
Rethink of EU policy (2008)….

Progress was too slow

Against simplification

Highgrading ban in 2009-2010
CFP reform process 2009

1. Overexploitation
2. Overcapacity
3. Long term goals
4. EBFM
   - discards

…and in 2010 a new Fisheries Commissioner!
The 2010 “incident”....

every day far out at sea

this is happening

half the fish caught in the North Sea

are being thrown back

dead

we want to stop it

join the discard protest at

www.fishfight.net
Public reaction (2011)....

Fish Fight brought EU fisheries' waste into our homes
Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's Fish Fight campaign united people against disgraceful discards like no politician could

Richard Bonyon
guardian.co.uk, Friday 12 August 2011 14.47 BST
Article history

Young's backs end to discards
Young's Seafood, the UK arm of Findus Group, will support moves to end discarding fish caught at sea, the company said after a meeting with Richard Lochhead, UK's Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Environment. "We have long held the view that the practice of discarding fish at sea is both... to better understand and reduce discarding," Ward said. "Following our recent meeting, we plan to continue to work closely with the Scottish government"
intrafish.com 03.05.12
Rethink of EU policy (2011)….

Highgrading ban in 2009-2010

Discard ban in 2014-2016

(species by species)
1. DISCARDS
   - Managements measures

2. overexploitation
3. overcapacity
4. long term goals
Summary

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

goals

fishery by fishery

highgrading ban

CFP reform

new commissioner

cost guard video

coast guard video

discard ban (sp by sp)

CFP reform

campaign

public campaign

public campaign

new commissioner

new commissioner

coast guard video

coast guard video
Conclusions

- Public opinion has a say on policy!
- Public campaigns good or bad? Correct information is crucial!
- Responsibility? Governments, NGOs and companies!
Thank You!