



Pulse gear – A more sustainable alternative for traditional beam trawling?

21 June 2017

12:30-14:30

Room A1H1

European Parliament, Brussels

Co-hosted by:

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The pulse trawl is a fishing gear that uses electrical pulses to catch target species such as sole and shrimp. The pulse trawl is considered by ICES and STECF to be a more sustainable alternative to the traditional beam trawl due to reduced fuel consumption, higher selectivity for sole and reduced bottom impact. In contrast to the conventional beam trawl which uses tickler chains to mechanically stimulate target species from the seabed, the pulse trawl consists of a beam (or wing) fixed with rubber-coated cables containing electrodes. These electrodes produce short electrical pulses to electrically stimulate target species from the seabed. Since its commercial application research efforts on pulse have increased, spurred by concerns among other fishermen, NGOs and EU member state representatives about the impact of the gear. Past, present and future research focus on the mechanical disturbance caused by the pulse trawl, the electrical effects on marine species and the marine ecosystem and the catch efficiency and selectivity of the pulse trawl. A large-scale multi-faceted research programme commissioned by the Dutch Government focuses on the results from extensive research so far that the transition from mechanical stimulation (beam trawl) to electrical stimulation (pulse trawl) will significantly reduce ecosystem effects of fishing.

The meeting will provide the opportunity to hear from the scientists about 1) the pulse technique, 2) the research programme and 3) the control and enforcement arrangements. This will be followed by an exchange of views with the Commission, MEPs and the various stakeholders.





DRAFT AGENDA

- 12:00- 12:30** *A light lunch will be served in the meeting room*
- 12:30-12:35** Welcome by **Ricardo Serrão Santos MEP**
- 12:35 – 12:40** Introduction by **Peter van Dalen MEP**
- 12:40-12:45** **Harmen Klein Wolthuis**, HFK Engineering: What is pulse fisheries?
- 12:45- 13:00** **Hans Polet**, Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research of Flanders:
BENTHIS research regarding the impact of pulse fisheries
- 13:00- 13:10** **Elisa Roller**, Head of Unit CFP and Structural Support, Policy Development and
Coordination, DG MARE, European Commission
- 13:10-13:20** **Kees Verbogt**, National Expert, Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs
- 13:20-13:30** **Michel Kaiser**, Chair of the International Science Advisory Council for Pulse
Research: Pulse fishing: opportunities and knowledge gaps
- 13:30-13:40** **Brian O’Riordan**, Deputy Director, Low Impact Fishers of Europe
- 13:40-13:50** **Björn Stockhausen**, Fisheries Policy Officer, Seas at Risk
- 13:50-14:25** **Questions and discussion with the audience**
- 14:25-14:30** Concluding remarks by **Ricardo Serrão Santos MEP**