



The landing obligation and discards survivability

European Parliament, 26 June 2018



Introductory Remarks

- **The Landing Obligation (LO), a key objective of the reformed CFP**

- **Main tools to implement the LO: MAPs and discard plans**

- **Content of MAPs and discard plans**
 1. Provisions on fisheries or species covered by the LO, such as technical measures to increase selectivity or eliminate/reduce unwanted catches
 2. High survival exemptions
 3. *De minimis* exemptions of up to 5% where increases in selectivity are very difficult or to avoid disproportionate costs of handling unwanted catches
 4. Provisions on the documentation of catches
 5. Fixing of minimum conservation reference sizes, where appropriate



1. Discards survivability in Regulation 1380/2014 (the CFP)

- Recital 27:

"The LO should be introduced on a fishery-by-fishery basis. Fishermen should be allowed to continue discarding species which, according to the best available scientific advice, have a high survival rate when released into the sea."

- Article 15.4:

"The LO [...] shall not apply to:

(a) [...]

*(b) species for which scientific evidence demonstrates high survival rates, taking into account the **characteristics of the gear**, of the **fishing practices** and of the **ecosystem***



2. The process for establishing high survival exemptions

- **Regionalization (Article 18 CFP)**
 - ✓ **Joint recommendations (JR) by the MS concerned**
 - ✓ **Scientific assessment of JR by STECF**
 - ✓ **If positive scientific assessment => COM delegated act**
 - ✓ **Publication in the JO and entry into force, if no objection by the EP or Council**



3. High survival exemptions in discard plans (I)

I. North Sea:

- **Norway lobster caught with pots;**
- **Cod, haddock, whiting, plaice, sole, hake and saithe with pots and fyke nets;**
- **Norway lobster in Kattegat with some bottom trawls;**
- **Sole below MCRS caught within 6m from coast**

II. North Western Waters:

- **Norway lobster caught with pots, traps, or creels in West of Scotland and Irish and Celtic Sea;**
- **Sole below MCRS caught with otter trawl gears with codend mesh size of 80-99 mm in Eastern Channel within 6m from coast**



4. High survival exemptions in discard plans (II)

I. South Western Waters:

- **Norway lobster caught with trawls in the Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Sea;**

II. Mediterranean:

- **Norway lobster caught with bottom trawls in Western Mediterranean;**
- **Sole caught with rapido (beam trawl) in the Adriatic Sea;**
- **Mollusc bivalves: scallop, carpet clams and Venus clams caught with mechanized dredges in the Western Mediterranean**

5. Main challenge: the lack of sufficient scientific evidence

I. Objective difficulties:

- i. Limitations on availability of data, scientists and technical equipment to carry out studies**
- ii. Some of those studies require several years to complete**
- iii. Significant increase of the scope of the LO in 2019**

Discard plans in force:

=> Temporary exemptions on the condition that Member States submit additional information



6. The need to improve scientific data and evidence

- ✓ **Important work has been done or is ongoing, including EFF or EMFF funded projects**

However:

- ✓ **Data/evidence is still missing in many cases (species, gears, etc.)**
- ✓ **Need for better data collection and further studies**
- ✓ **The use of the EMFF should also increase**





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Thank you for your attention !