

REPORT Summary

Meeting: STECF Landing Obligation Working Group

Parties:

Participants from the NSAC: Stella Nemecky Stella.Nemecky@wwf.de ; Michael Andersen ma@dkfisk.dk

Date: 28 May 2021

Location: Online

Rapporteur: Michael Andersen

The chair, Dominic Rihan started the section on North Sea by applauding the providers of information, which he called relevant and of good quality.

For the North Sea STECF had dealt with 2 *de minimis* exemptions, 3 on high survival and 1 technical issue.

De minimis exemptions for bycatches of cod and whiting in the southern North Sea was to a large extent based on data from 7d. Nevertheless, it was estimated that there was not much difference between catch composition in 4c and 7d and volumes were very low – for cod there was no bycatches.

Regarding the exemption for whiting in beam trawls, data provided from Holland documented that expenses to modify gears to reduce the low level of bycatches of whiting would be very high. STECF is not in a position to evaluate if they are disproportionate.

High survival of plaice and turbot in beam trawls was documented through data from North Western Waters. This was considered appropriate.

STECF agreed to the rationale of setting a limit for the level of Nephrops allowed in the catch for which the derogation for plaice would not apply. There is a linkage between increased quantities of Nephrops and reduced survival of plaice. However, it was not clear to STECF why the specific suggested level was chosen and how it could be controlled.

A proposal for a new wording on the use of selectivity panels in Skagerrak removed the earlier ambiguity on the text.

The final report of the Expert Working Group will be ready in early July.

Executive Committee Chair: **Kenn Skau Fischer** - tel: +45 51 19 95 37, email: ksf@dkfisk.dk

Secretariat: **Tamara Talevska** - tel: +31 62 53 18 192, email: tamarat@nsrac.org

NSAC is an association registered in The Netherlands No 73959987

Registered Office: Louis Braillelaan 80, 2719EK Zoetermeer



NSAC is supported by the European Union