



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES
FISHERIES POLICY MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEA
CFP AND STRUCTURAL SUPPORT POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION

The EU Landing Obligation: Progress to date

15 November 2017
from 09:00 to 17:30

CENTRE A. BORSCHETTE – AB 3A
Rue Froissart 36, 1040 Brussels (Métro Schuman)

Agenda and Programme

Participants: Member States, representatives of the European Parliament, Advisory Councils, other stakeholders

- 1. Arrival of the participants and registration**
09:00-09:30
- 2. Opening by João Aguiar Machado, Director General**
09:30-09:45
- 3. Introduction by Veronika Veits, Director**
09:45-10:15
- 4. Breakdown in Working Groups**
10:15-10:30

Each working group will discuss the key issues associated with each of the topic areas and will be facilitated by a panel of experts representing different sectors. A "state of play" presentation will precede the discussions and will act as a stimulus for discussions. If appropriate, the working groups can consist of several sub-groups, each dealing with a specific topic. The key findings of the working groups will be used as the basis for plenary discussions.

- 5. Coffee break**
10:30-11:00

6. Working Groups 1 and 2 (in parallel)

11:00-13:00

WG1: Choke analysis tool – Results and Implications

This session will review the results and discuss the implications of the analysis of choke species using the Choke Analysis Tool conducted by a number of Advisory Councils in collaboration with the regional groups of Member States and the European Commission. Discussions will focus on the types of mitigation measures available, who has the responsibility in applying them and how far the measures are able to resolve potential choke issues.

WG2: Control and Catch Reporting Issues

Landings of fish below MCRS and *de minimis* catches reported by Member States are low across the different regions. The comparisons between estimates from the available observer data and the last-haul analysis cast doubt on whether they reflect the quantities actually caught. Continued underreporting of catches is of concern as this could potentially increase fishing mortality beyond F_{MSY} , which may negatively impact on future fishing opportunities. This should also be considered in light of the forthcoming revision to the EU control regulation. The objective of this working group is to explore the extent and causes of differences in catch estimates and how reliable catch estimates can be ensured so that scientific advice is not compromised.

7. Lunch break

13:00-14:00

8. Working Groups 3 and 4 (in parallel)

14:00-16:00

WG3: Technical solutions to reduce unwanted catches

One of the primary objectives of the landing obligation is to promote the use of more selective fishing methods and practices. Over the past few years and decades, considerable research into mechanisms to enhance selectivity has been undertaken. This session will explore recent research from projects such as MINOUW and DiscardLess with particular focus on the transition between development, demonstration and implementation of selective fishing techniques, to explore to what extent these have been used by the catching sector and how to promote growth in their use.

WG4: Marketing Issues – markets for undersized and underutilised fish; failure to implement the landing obligation - implications for market access?

The landing obligation represents both challenges and advantages from a marketing perspective. On the one hand, the landing obligation should result in making available catches of undersize fish that cannot be sold for human consumption and fish that are presently underutilised. In this Working Group we will explore the marketing opportunities for unwanted fish, including an assessment of the volumes available and the policy constraints surrounding the marketing of unwanted fish. This working group will also explore the potential impact of under declaration of catches on seafood accreditation schemes.

9. Coffee break

16:00-16:30

10. Plenary session: wrap-up of the discussions

16:30-17:30