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Theme: Special Sessions

Session: ThG3 - Capacity

Title:Measuring fishing capacity with a DEA method in the French
prawn fishery

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- Abstract: According to the objective of stock recovery defined at the summit of Johannesburg, the optimal management of fisheries requires adequacy between the available resource and fishing capacity. However, matching this objective with another goal of economic and social sustainability is also of major importance.

Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) methods are generally used to measure fishing capacity in order to detect the situations of overcapacity. Such methods are particularly adapted to the case of multi-specific fleets. In a fisheries management perspective, the DEA method shows a certain number of limits (sensitivity to outliers, to the sampled fleet) and must be used very carefully.

In this communication, the DEA method is applied to prawn (Nephrops norvegicus) fishery in France. The fleet is quite heterogeneous in terms of species, size, fishing zones and strategies. Two homogeneous sub-samples show opposite results in terms of capacity utilisation and profitability, therefore requiring two different management policies.