Crystal Sea Fishing – our response to the Landing Obligation

D Stevens, IIFET 2016

Introduction - 1

- MMO asked us to join CQT scheme in 2013
- Main aims to operate a Fully Documented Fishery and study how to avoid haddock becoming a choke species
- To achieve this:
  - Use REM to verify skipper records
  - Test and monitor selective gears

Introduction - 2

- Work with CEFAS – further selectivity trials
- Collaborative approach worthwhile. We have learned a great deal about our fishery
- We now understand the arguments and challenges from all sides: management, science, policy

Fully Documented Fishery

Took three years:

1. Concentrate on haddock as choke species

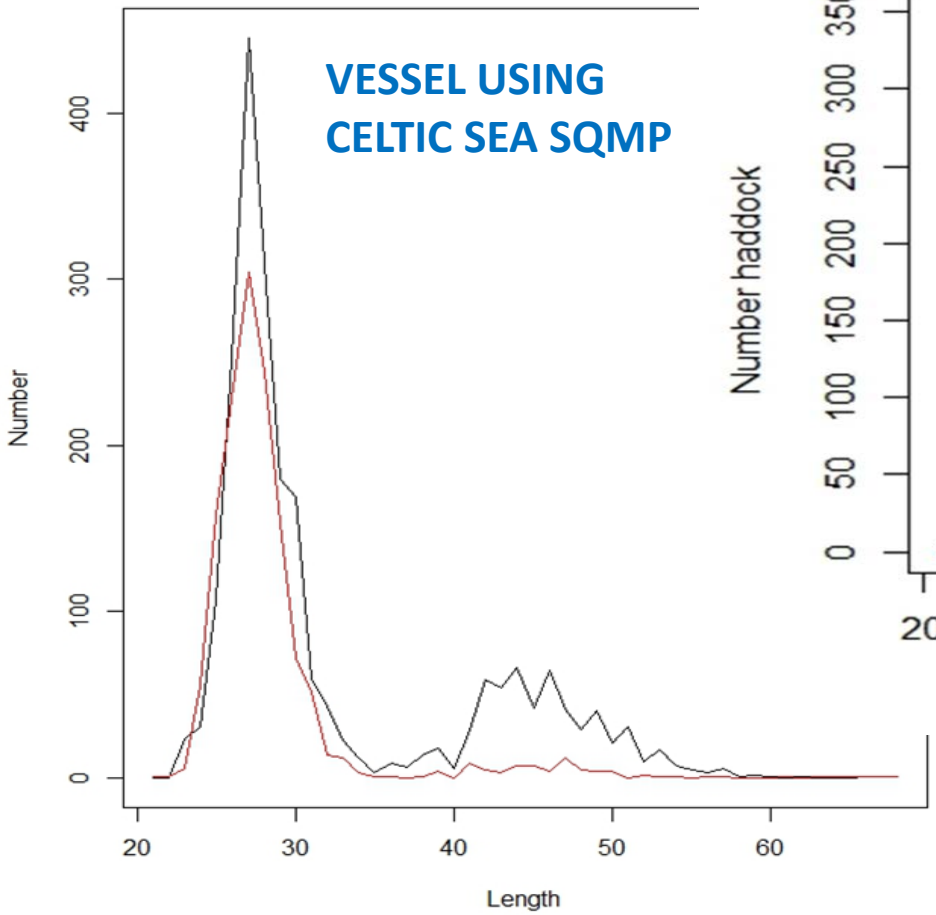
2. Four species, began to develop technical solutions (e.g. SQMP in cod end)

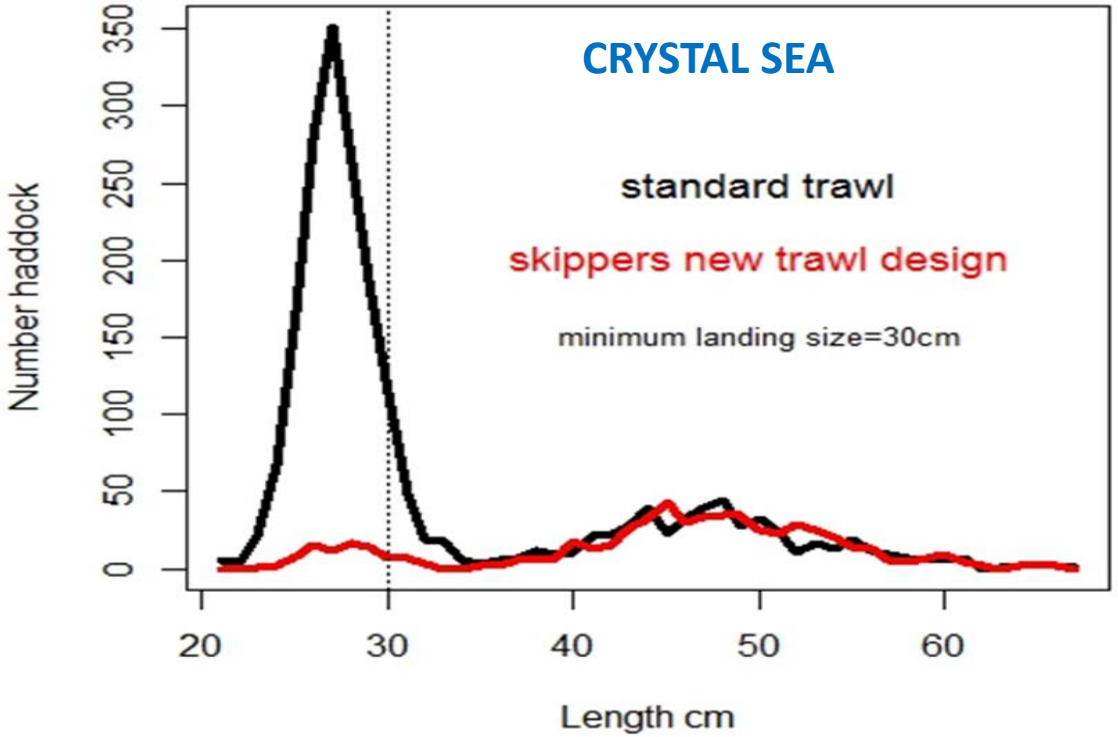
3. FDF for haddock. However, difficult to maintain as juvenile abundance high

Technical measures 1

Technical measures 2

Standard selectivity against improved incentivised selectivity measures





Cefas

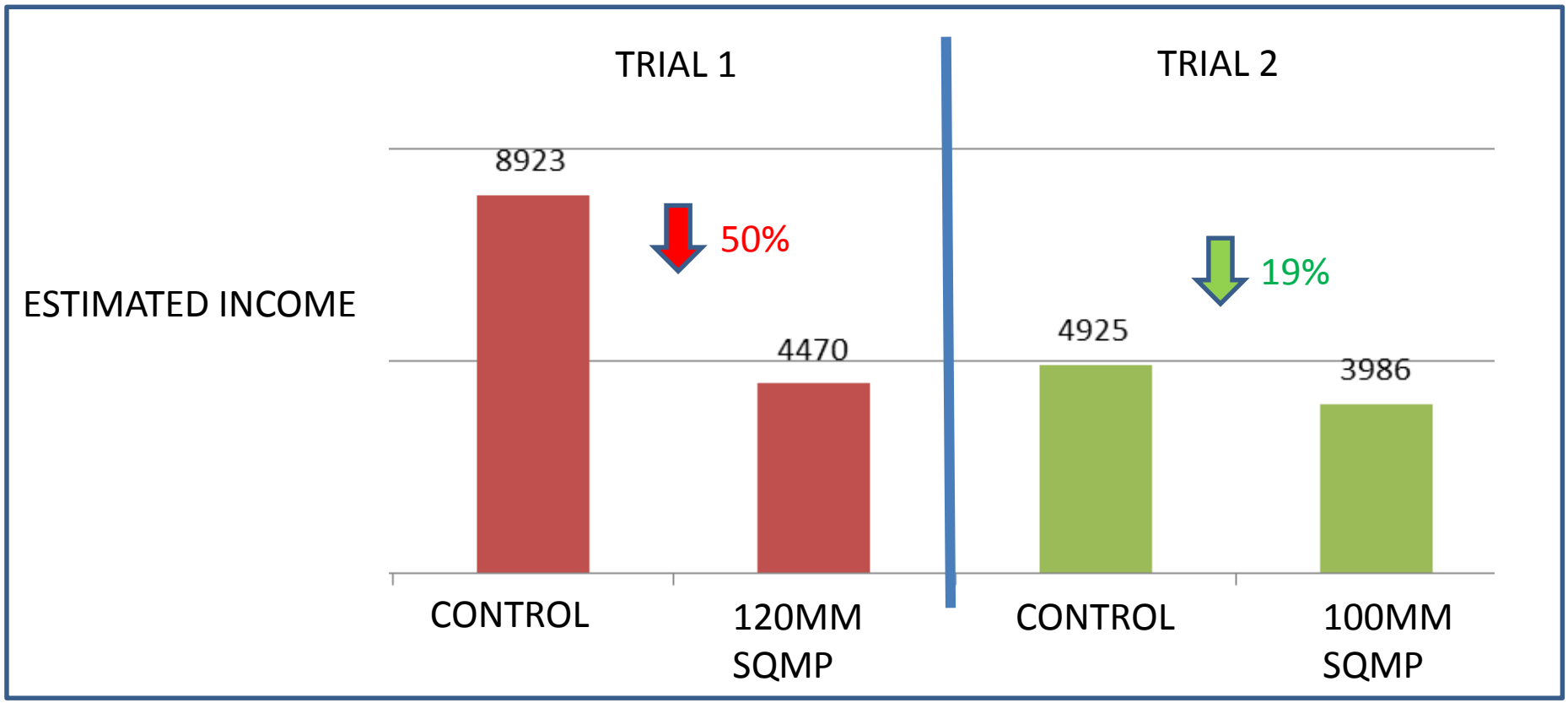
Haddock as a choke species

- Own 10-15% haddock quota, only 1-2% other UK TAC species, and use selective gear to reduce discards

- This has not resolved choke species issue

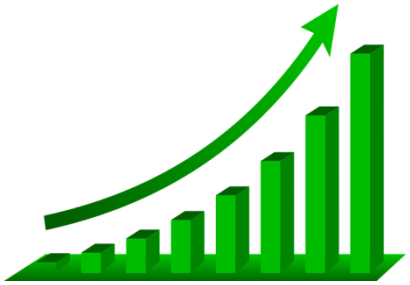
- Consider:
  - Real-time data on erratic recruitment species?
  - Policy objectives?

Taking fisheries to economic tipping point



Too efficient reduction of discards = economically unviable fishery

Way forward – policy/science



- Problem
  - Relative share issues – MS shares cause problems as it comes to choke species. E.g. hake in N Sea, cod and haddock in SW

- Policy incentives
  - Buffer quota
  - Group TAC/mixed species advice
  - Quota currency system
  - Avoid a race to fish

Way forward – use of REM

- Real-time data
- Trust and transparency – independent verification of skipper records
- Industry can’t push for flexibility without transparency
- Science not enforcement?

Understanding economics from industry perspective

- Fishermen do not want to discard, protect juveniles
- Consider real time data to move away from precautionary approach
- North Sea and Western Waters stock increases = challenging management

Understanding economics from industry perspective

- Mixed fishery models
- Erratic recruitment stocks (gadoids)
- Converting science to theory (e.g. estimating MSY) requires accurate and real-time data

Thank You – any questions?

Acknowledgements

Marine Management Organisation

Cefas

D Stevens is involved with MMO Catch Quota trials. The collaborative work is available here: **https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/catch-quota-trials-reports**