



Implementation of the Landing Obligation for Belgian Fisheries

*IIFET 2016 Scotland
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Rederscentrale

- Belgian PO & Fishing Vessel Owner Federation
- Represented in



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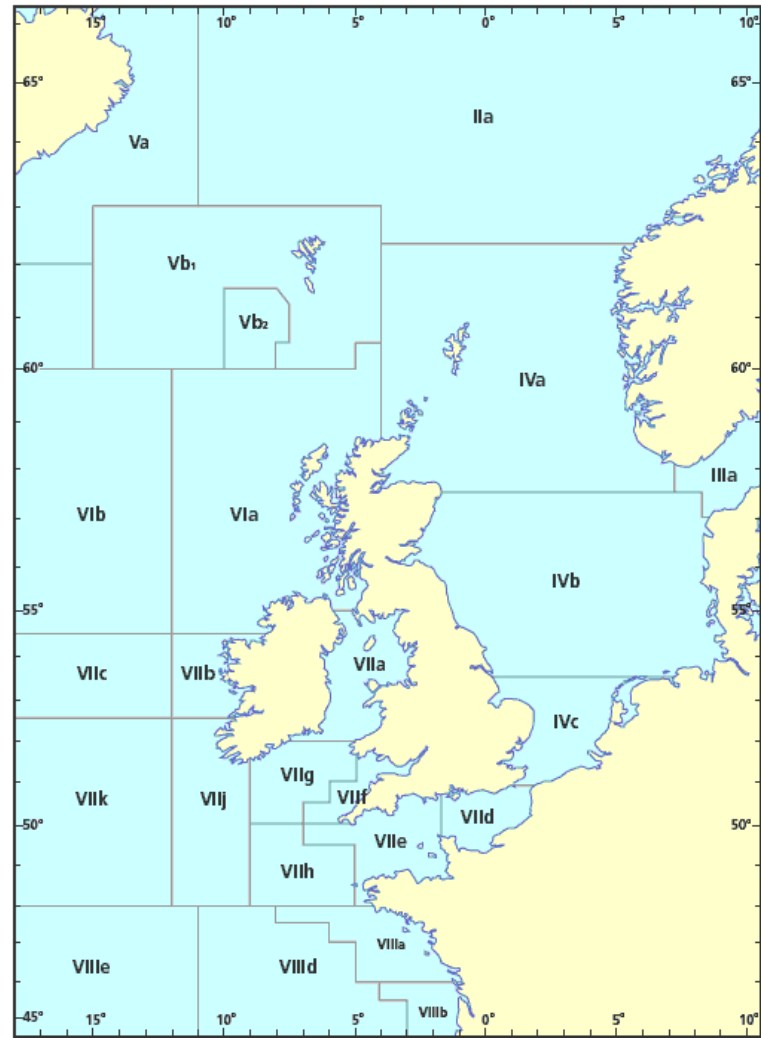
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Belgian fisheries

- 67 vessels
- BT2, BT1, TR2, BT3, TR1, TR3, GN1, GT1
- Majority working on different fishing grounds over different periods of a calendar year (IVb-VIIIb), often with different gear.
- Subject to approx 70 TACs = approx 70 risks of choke species by 2019, if Landing Obligation not properly managed.



Landing Obligation in 2016



North Sea:

- BT2
 - Sole, de-minimis exemption, 7% of Sole quota, with ‘Belgian Panel’ (extension piece with minimum mesh size of 120 mm vs. Regulation 80 mm).
- BT1
 - Plaice.
- TR2
 - Sole.
 - Nephrops, de-minimis 6%.





Landing Obligation in 2016

North Sea:

- TR1
 - Plaice.
 - Haddock.

- GN & GT
 - Sole.





Landing Obligation in 2016

North Western Waters:

(vessels affected based on percentage catch of relevant species)

- BT2: VIId, VIle, VIIfg & VIIh-k:
 - Sole, de-minimis 3%, same condition as NS.
 - First choke issue with full usage of Sole VIIh-k quota since mid June.
- TR2
 - VIIa Haddock.
 - VIId Whiting, de-minimis 7%.
 - VIle-k Whiting, de-minimis 7%.
- GN & GT
 - Sole.
 - Hake.





Landing Obligation in 2016

South Western Waters:

- BT2:
 - Villab Sole, de-minimis 5%, same condition as NS.



Landing Obligation in 2016



Further Comments:

- Each vessel end 2015 received an overview of individual activities subject to the LO.
- Overall obligation to displace at least 10 nm (3 nm for vessels <70 GT), in case catch of under MCRS Sole exceeds 5%.
- Currently max 2 species per gear already complex... In 2019 could be 20 species per gear!?
- First choke experience: Belgian Sole VIIh-k quota fully fished => area closed for all Belgian fishing vessels. No possibility to fish other species.





Outlook / views from 2017 onward...

- If no solution for choke issues, addition of species under Landing Obligation is not acceptable.
- For many fisheries the Landing Obligation is operationally impossible without mitigation measures.
- Many fishing vessel owners and crews consider the Landing Obligation as unachievable and lose interest to invest and/or work in fisheries.
- Choke species come in addition to these operational and motivational issues of the Landing Obligation.
- Issues with choke species need to be resolved to make the CFP work.





How to resolve Choke Species Issues

Possible measures:

- Continue work on avoidance & minimisation of unwanted catches => recognition needed for fisheries initiatives. (Gear adaptation, real-time or periodic area avoidance, ...)
- Application of the survival exemption. Landing everything means unnecessary actual increase of fishing mortality. Obtain scientific evidence whilst survival exemption is applied.

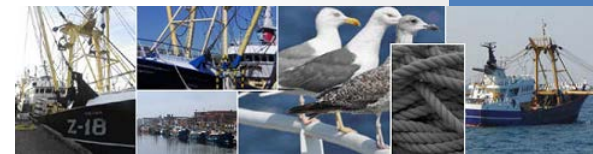




How to resolve Choke Species Issues

Possible measures:

- Technical measures and survival trials in many Member States => Collate & analyse for generalized application.
- De-minimis exemption: make it work for all species for which quota are exhausted.
- Workable quota uplift.
- Interspecies flexibilities: expand possible use?





How to resolve Choke Species Issues

If not resolved by all the above the Choke Species Issues will have to be addressed by reviewing existing regulations:

- New grouping of TACs (e.g. Norway Others).
- For some species it might not be necessary to keep catch limits in place (less TACs).
- Always allow fisheries to continue as long as quota available for target species (by-catch quota).
- Review art. 15 of the CFP.





Thank you for your attention!

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