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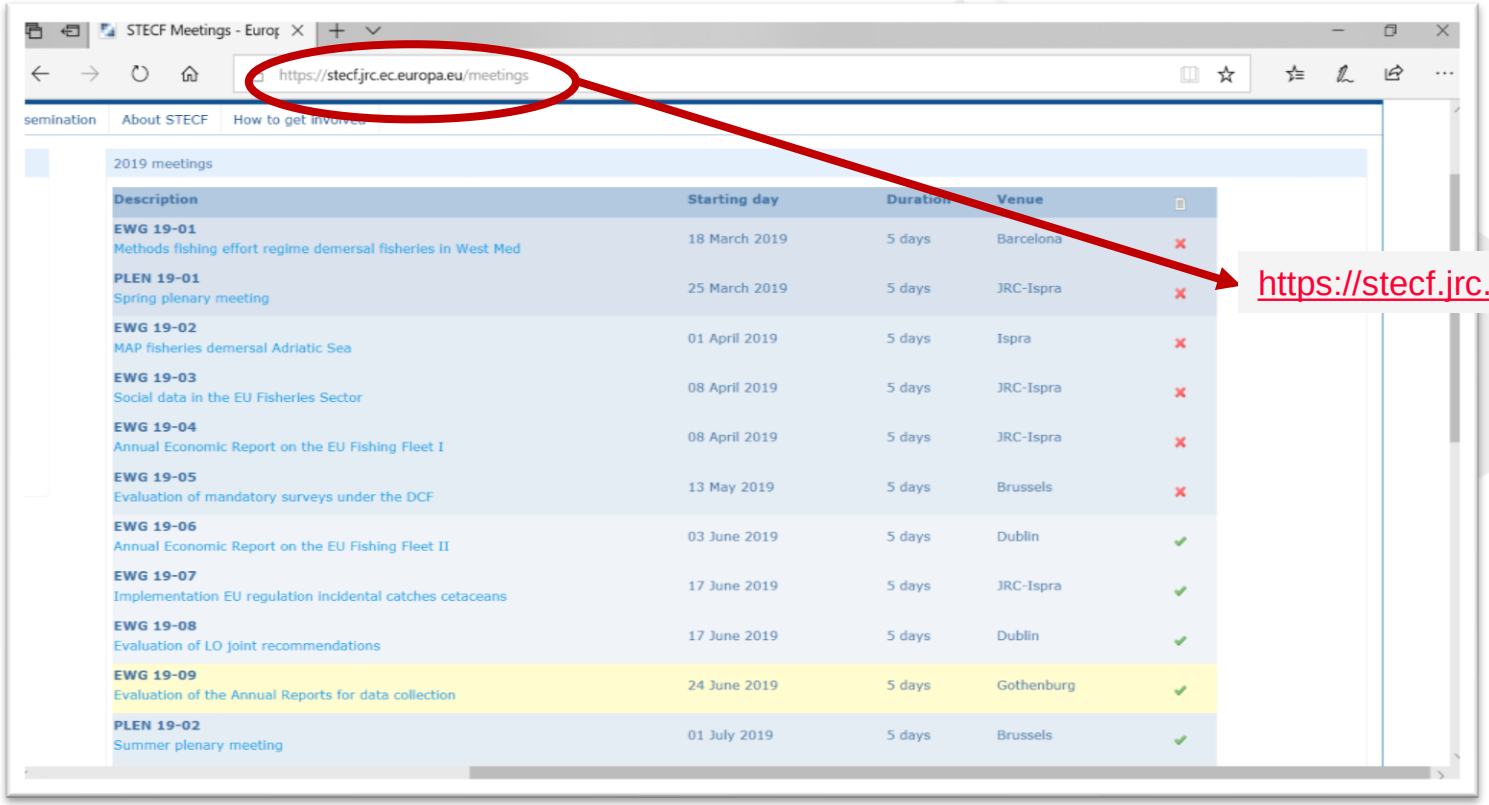
Report of the STECF
61st PLENARY MEETING REPORT
(PLEN-19-02)
1 - 5 July 2019, Brussels

Contents of the 61° Plenary meeting report

- Related to Mediterranean Sea
- Of interest for the MEDAC's members



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EWG 19-03 Social data in the EU Fisheries Sector

EWG 19-03 Social data in the EU Fisheries Sector

Collection of social indicators for the EU fishing fleet, aquaculture- and fish processing industry

Regulation No 2017/1004

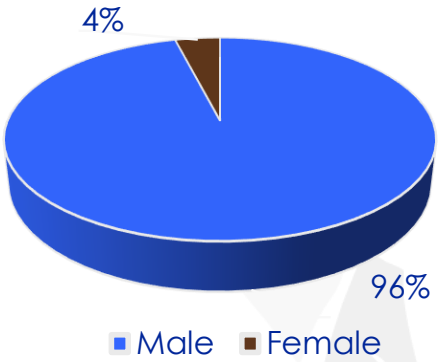
on the establishment of a Union framework for the collection, management and **use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the CFP**

- Employment by gender;
- Full Time Employment (FTE) by gender;
- Unpaid labour by gender;
- Employment by age;
- Employment by education level;
- Employment by nationality;
- Employment by employment status;
- Total FTE National.

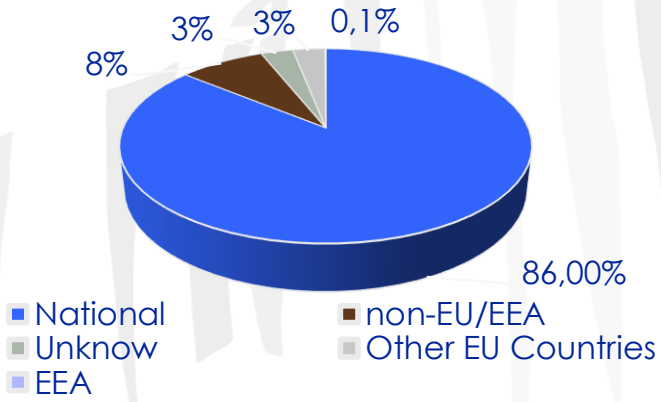
EWG 19-03 Social data in the EU Fisheries Sector

In 2017 there were around 150 thousand people employed in the EU fishing fleet, equivalent to some 99 thousand FTEs.

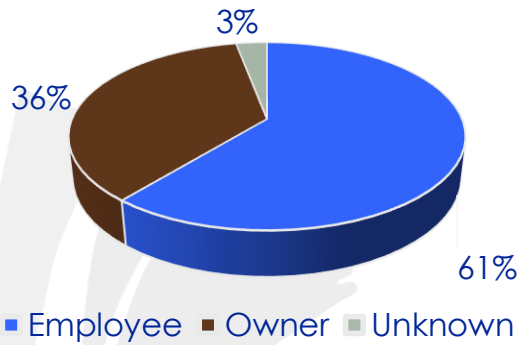
Gender



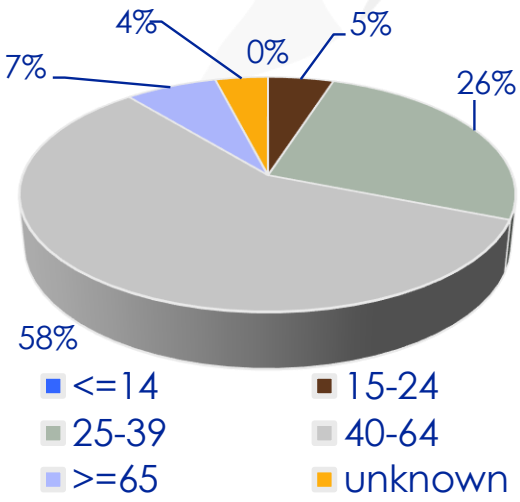
Nationality



Employment Status

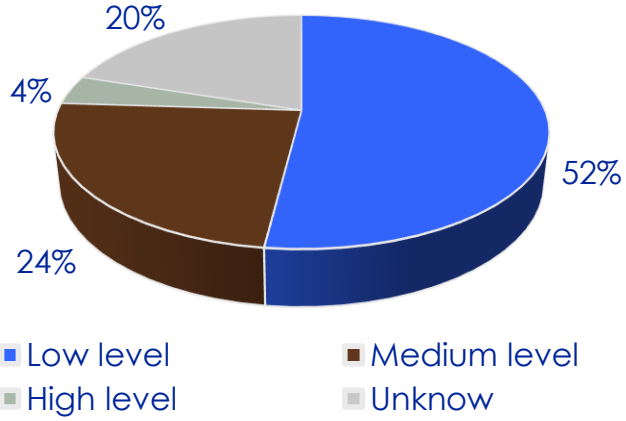


Age



Social data varied considerably across Member States

Education



EWG 19-03 Social data in the EU Fisheries Sector

EWG 19-03 proposed a list of new variables:

- ✓ Vocational / technical training
- ✓ New entrants in the fishery sector
- ✓ Representation and governance

STECF acknowledges the **difficulty to describe the social state** of the fishing sector through such quantitative variables

Therefore, EWG 19-03 proposed to compile **National profiles**, which would contain a brief description of some of the **most salient social, institutional and legal elements** for each Member State

EWG 19-03 Social data in the EU Fisheries Sector

STECF observes that EWG 19-03 also **considered the development of fishing community profiles**
(may be developed in collaboration with ICES WGSOCIAL).
Those profiles might require **data at a scale lower than the country**

Community Profiling and Social Impact Assessments
As starting point for further discussions and for the **creation of a more permanent social data collection**
and analytical framework that would
support policy decisions.

STECF observes the **significance of the correct aggregation of data**,
where fishery importance is very local.

EWG 19-03 Social data in the EU Fisheries Sector

STECF conclusions

- ✓ Inclusion of '**share fishers**' in the employment categories
- ✓ Inclusion of shore-crew in the analysis (unpaid labour/women)
- ✓ Data **stratification by fleet** and national division level rather than be provided at the overarching national level only (**local contexts**)
- ✓ Need of further development and operationalization of **social impact assessment methods** (with WGSOCIAL and EWG AER)

In order to guide this process the EWG should invite **policy makers** to discuss the **specific questions** to be addressed in the social analysis of the EU fishing fleet and the **social aspects of the CFP**.

EWG 19-03 Social data in the EU Fisheries Sector

The ToR **In 2020** for the EWG on social data may include:

- ✓ Construction of **fisheries sector profiles**,
- ✓ Evaluation of the current set of **social indicators** used,
- ✓ Expansion of the current set of indicators where necessary,
- ✓ Preparation of **profiles of fishing communities**.

Operationalization of **indicators for reliance and resilience of fishing communities**

Development of the **National profiles** as proposed by STECF EWG 19-03

In 2021 development of:

- ✓ **EU fishing communities' profiles**;
- ✓ A **methodology to describe changes over time** of the fishing communities and social developments.
- ✓ A methodology for the **evaluation of impacts of policy on selected fishing communities**.

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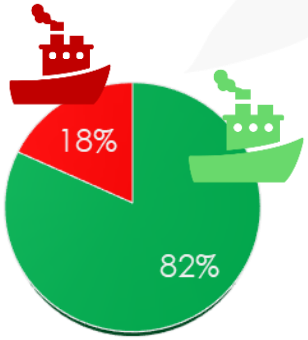
EWGs 19-04/06 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet

STECF observations on the results of the AER 2019 draft report

Profitability of the EU fleet slightly **decreased** in 2017 (net profit EUR 1.3 billion) compared to 2016 (EUR 1.34 billion).

EU **fleet capacity** has continued to **decrease** but at a lower rate.

Direct employment generated by the sector (around 150 000 fishers) has **slightly decreased** compared to 2016 (-0.7%).



While overall the EU fleet was profitable, **4 out of the 22 Member States[1]' fleets generated net losses in 2017**.

Results varied by scale of operation and fishing region.

[1] Excl. Greece which not delivered all variables to calculate profit

STECF concludes that **the analysis** of

i) the **economic benefits of MSY** - such as an analysis of causality between stocks exploited sustainably and the improvement in the performance of the fleets, and

ii) the recovery of stocks and implementation of management measures - such as an analysis of causality between the **Landing obligation and economic performance**.

Require

- ✓ **Wider perspective** than what can be obtained from the analysis of the economic data of the EU fishing fleet alone.
- ✓ Multidisciplinary study

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EWG 19-08 Evaluation of Landing Obligation joint recommendations

EWG 19-08 Evaluation of Landing Obligation joint recommendations

Role of EWG 19-08 and STECF Plenary 19-02

to evaluate the **scientific rigor and robustness of the underpinning information** supplied by Member States to support the joint recommendations

STECF cannot adjudicate on whether exemptions should be accepted or not.

EWG 19-08 Evaluation of Landing Obligation joint recommendations

Review of the effectiveness of the exemptions to landing obligation (need to be amended or still required).

STECF highlights the "lack of [required] reporting by vessel operators of fish discarded under exemptions…"

If the data situation does not improve, it will likely have a significant impact on the quality of scientific advice and may **compromise the achievement of the MSY objective**.

CCTV and Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) could be a more effective way to enforce the Landing Obligation

EWG 19-08 Evaluation of Landing Obligation joint recommendations

STECF **observations** on proposed **de minimis exemptions**

No agreed method to objectively judge estimates of **disproportionate costs**

Large element of judgement of a proposal

Simply stating that handling, storing and landing unwanted catches has an associated cost, is not enough

Improving selectivity in the relevant fisheries should be the priority

Positive Step in the Mediterranean: intentions provided by MS introduce **Marine Protected Areas and Fish Recovery Areas**

STECF **observations** on **high survivability** exemptions

The assessment of **what constitutes high survivability** is complicated by the limited information available and the variability in survival estimates

- ✓ the limited species-specific information and
- ✓ differences between experiments: timing, season, gear handling, observation period
- ✓ the **proportion of fish alive** at the point of release does not constitute a valid survival estimate due to the **mortalities that are known to occur post-release**

EWG 19-08 Evaluation of Landing Obligation joint recommendations - **DE MINIMIS**

Species	Gears	STECF conclusions

Demersal finfish excluding hake, mullets and pelagic species IN ALL AREAS	Bottom trawls, Gillnets and trammel nets, hooks and lines	- Evidence of increased costs in
		  - **handling and sorting times** on board at 30-40% depending on vessel size
		  - **handling unwanted catches ashore**, which is difficult in the Mediterranean
		- Due to the small quantities and a very large number of landing places, even unwanted catches could be sold, **costs for collection** would be disproportional to the value
		
		STECF stresses the need to put in place the **MPAs and FRAs as quickly as possible** and to continue efforts to **improve selectivity** in trawl fisheries.

Total annual bycatches of Anchovy, Sardine, Mackerel and Horse mackerel IN ALL AREAS	Bottom trawls	

EWG 19-08 Evaluation of Landing Obligation joint recommendations – **HIGH SURVIVABILITY**

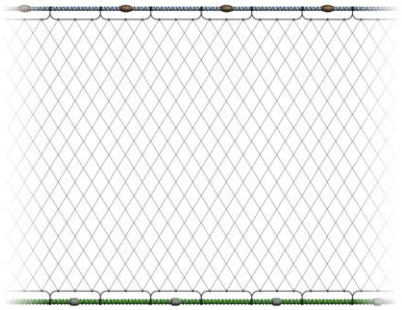
Red Sea Bream (Blackspot)
ALL AREAS
Hooks and lines

STECF CONCLUSIONS

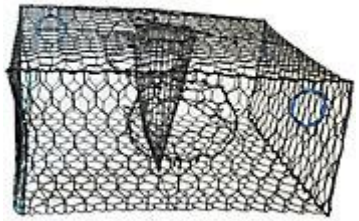
✓ Survival evidence referred not representative.

✓ Further survival assessments would determine whether survival rates differ across the defined gear types, seasons and geographic areas.

EWG 19-08 Evaluation of Landing Obligation joint recommendations – **HIGH SURVIVABILITY**



Lobster & Crawfish
ALL AREAS
Gillnets, pots and traps

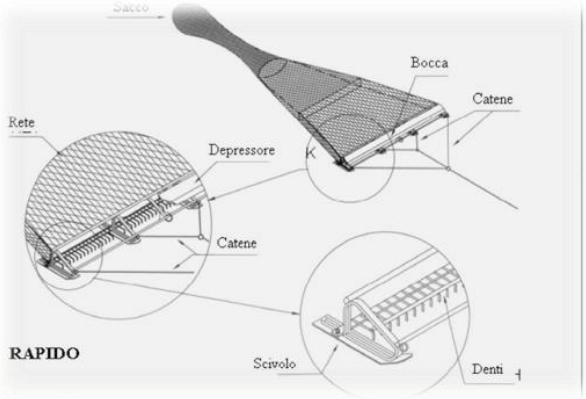


STECF CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ Additional studies in a representative range of static net fisheries would improve certainty on discard survival.
- ✓ Survivability for these species is expected to be high in pots and traps.
- ✓ Additional studies would be preferable for nets as there remains uncertainty on discard survival.

EWG 19-08 Evaluation of Landing Obligation joint recommendations – **HIGH SURVIVABILITY**

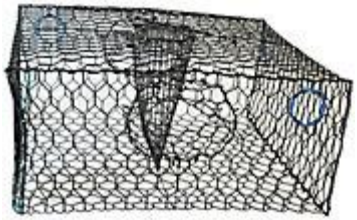
Common sole
ADRIATICA and PESCAMED
Rapido



✓ STECF notes that when accounting for individuals that were dead at the point of release, the overall discard survival rate is less than 7-17%.

EWG 19-08 Evaluation of Landing Obligation joint recommendations – **HIGH SURVIVABILITY**

Nephrops
ADRIATICA and PESCAMED
Pots and Traps



STECF CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ No new survival evidence is provided.
- ✓ Some information on the Italian fleet was provided
- ✓ It is stated that Nephrops landings are sold alive.
- ✓ There is no information on levels of unwanted catch.
- ✓ Additional data could be provided indicating the scale of the fishery, discards and details of the live market.

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Evaluation of Joint Recommendation on new Discard plan for Venus Clams in Italian waters

Evaluation of Joint Recommendation on new Discard plan for Venus Clams in Italian waters

IT administration submitted a **new Joint Recommendation** accompanied by a discard plan for the fisheries targeting **Venus clams in the Northern Adriatic Sea**.

STECF CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ The **revised JR submitted has included further information** (data, supporting studies, measures to manage the fishery, new research to be undertaken to fill the knowledge gaps)
- ✓ Italian request of **continuation** of the enforced reduction in MCRS of Venus clam (*Chamelea gallina*) **from 25 mm to 22 mm until 31 December 2022** seems reasonable.

Nevertheless, the past and predicted future impacts of the proposed change in the MCRS on exploitation rates and stock biomass **cannot be fully assessed**.

Evaluation of Joint Recommendation on new Discard plan for Venus Clams in Italian waters

STECF CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ **Discard survival would expect to be substantial**. Nevertheless, discard mortality from predation is unknown
- ✓ The proposed scientific monitoring program is expected to provide robust data on the effects of the discard plan.

New ad hoc survivability studies results by the end of 2019

The planned selectivity study with the hydraulic dredge

will help improve the understanding of selectivity and survival

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Evaluation of new management hydraulic dredges in Italian waters

Evaluation of new management hydraulic dredges in Italian waters

In 2016, Italy submitted **consolidated management plans for hydraulic dredges in Italy** to the European Commission (EC) and these were adopted at national level.

New management plan

Update performed by the Italian Administration.

STECF assessment and advice - *whether the management plans for marine commercial fishing carried out with hydraulic dredges in Italy contains adequate elements in terms of:*

- ✓ The description of the fisheries;
- ✓ Objectives, safeguards and conservation/technical measures;
- ✓ Other aspects (e.g. Quantifiable indicators for periodic monitoring and assessment of progress)
- ✓ Documentation

Evaluation of new management hydraulic dredges in Italian waters

STECF CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ The management plan contains almost **all the elements requested**;
- ✓ The monitoring conducted by the **Consortia follows changes in the resource on a daily basis** -> closed areas if densities are low;
- ✓ The **survey** at **national** level at the end of the fishing season provides the information for the measures in the **following season**.
- ✓ STECF acknowledges that the plan represents a major effort of **coordination and commitment among fishers, scientists and administrations** involved.
- ✓ STECF supports the need for further research on the role of the environment on clams development (i.e. mortality events).

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Thanks for your attention!

- Slide 19

[1] Demersal finfish refers to European seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*), annular seabream (*Diplodus annularis*), sharpsnout seabream (*Diplodus puntazzo*), white seabream (*Diplodus sargus*), two-banded seabream (*Diplodus vulgaris*), groupers (*Epinephelus* spp.), stripped seabream (*Lithognathus mormyrus*), Spanish seabream (*Pagellus acarne*), red seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*), common pandora (*Pagellus erythrinus*), common seabream (*Pagrus pagrus*), wreckfish (*Polyprion americanus*), gilthead seabream (*Sparus aurata*) and deep-water rose shrimp (*Parapenaeus longirostris*)