Vademecum on the allocation of fishing opportunities

Consultation of stakeholders on social data and article 17 CFP - deadline April 15th
(DG MARE D3)

Coordinator: Gian Ludovico Ceccaroni

On Line WG1 – 10 April 2024

Last February 2023, the **Fisheries and Ocean Package** called on stakeholders and Member States to work hand-in-hand with the European Commission to improve the implementation of the CFP in the short term.

EC ask to consult Advisory Councils in particular regarding two specific actions:

1. *The further development of social indicators to be used in the analysis of socio-economic reports with the help of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF).* → *WG5*

2. Discussions among Member States and stakeholders with a view to preparing a vademecum **on the allocation of fishing opportunities** to:

- improve transparency,

- promote sustainable practices across the EU

- support small-scale and coastal fishers.

WG1
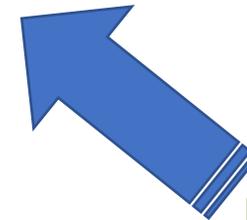
The letter builds on the latest STECF report on social data in fisheries which focused on some complementary aspects of social data:

National Fisheries Profiles

The development of additional social indicators

The allocation of fishing opportunities at national level (Article 17 of the CFP)

Art.16.6 of Reg 1380/2013 (PCP):

6. Each Member State shall decide how the fishing opportunities that are allocated to it, and which are not subject to a system of transferable fishing concessions, may be allocated to vessels flying its flag (e.g. by creating individual fishing opportunities). It shall inform the Commission of the allocation method.

Art. 17 of Reg. 1380/2013 (PCP)

When allocating the fishing opportunities available to them, as referred to in Article 16, Member States shall use transparent and objective criteria including those of an environmental, social and economic nature. The criteria to be used may include, inter alia, the impact of fishing on the environment, the history of compliance, the contribution to the local economy and historic catch levels. Within the fishing opportunities allocated to them, Member States shall endeavour to provide incentives to fishing vessels deploying selective fishing gear or using fishing techniques with reduced environmental impact, such as reduced energy consumption or habitat damage.

On the transparency of the system of allocation of fishing opportunities

➢ Questionnaires to SM: March 2016, May 2020, January 2022 and July 2023 to gather information on their allocation methods

Answers analyzed by the STECF:

«*the degree of completeness of the content of Member States answers has however been difficult to assess due to, among others, the lack of a baseline*»

To solve this issue, the STECF recommended that «the description of the allocation of fishing opportunities including the implementation of article 17 should be included in the National Fisheries Profiles.» This would contribute to establishing a baseline of information

National Fisheries Profiles

National Fisheries Profiles aim to gather existing quantitative and qualitative social data for each Member State

➢produced by April 2024 (?)

➢EC plans to publish these profiles on the JRC website in the **fall of 2024**.

➢making these National Fisheries Profiles public will enable all stakeholders to access and understand the national allocation systems of fishing opportunities thus improving transparency on article 17 of the CFP, as per its commitment in the Fisheries and Oceans Package.

STECF analysis detailed a list of novel practices and identified a number of outstanding obstacles, among which the definition of fishing opportunities.

Practices with positive impact or novel practices
(EWG 23/17)

➢ Creation of advisory committees, to support and advise the competent authorities on the allocation of quotas (**Ireland**)

➢ Regionalisation of some of the national quotas for non PO-fishers, to support the local economy and sustain fishers' livelihoods (**France**, applied to the sole, hake and mackerel quotas). The idea behind such a decision is to slow down the race to fish, allowing for a better spread of catches around the year and ultimately a better control of the risk of overfishing.

SOCIAL CRITERIA

➢ support to fishing communities to justify the allocation of fishing opportunities with the objective to reserve access to species or fishing ground to communities depending on them to maintain employment (**Spain, Italy, Croatia, Bulgaria…**).

➢ Promotion of employment on board through prioritising boats with a larger crew (**Spain** - in some areas days at sea are allocated according to the number of crew on board).

➢ percentage of quotas reserved to some specific social groups, as newcomers in fishing (i.e. in **Romania, Bulgaria, Malta**), young fishers (Denmark, Bulgaria, Malta) or for SSCF fishers (i.e. in **Latvia, Bulgaria and Malta**).

ECONOMIC CRITERIA

Economic criteria are less common and often mixed with other types of criteria such as social or environmental.

➢A particular example is that of **France**, with quotas under PO management. PO can decide to allocate the entire quota of some species to those getting the "best market value for their catches" so as to sustain the local economy and fleets more dependent on these species.

➢ less quotas allocated to fleets that did not have satisfactory compliance with regulations or had penalties over the previous year(s) (**e.g. Estonia, Bulgaria**).

Practices with positive impact or novel practices
## (EWG 23/17)

ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA

➢ use of selective fishing gear for reduced environmental impact (**Denmark, Ireland, France**)

➢ specific quotas of red tuna are allocated for lines, which are considered to limit the risk of unwanted by-catches **(France)**

➢ consideration of energy consumption (ex. fuel efficiency of engines) and of the avoidance of marine mammals and birds (**Belgium**)

➢ reduction of by-catches of mammals and birds in its allocation or the use of active acoustic devices to repel cetaceans (**Bulgaria**).

The relevance of this environmental criteria seems to be limited, as the environmental criteria are weighted at 1%, social and economic criteria at 3% and the vast majority of quotas are allocated according to historical catch records.

Figure 7 Distribution of the four types of allocation criteria per member state, according to answers to the questionnaire in 2023
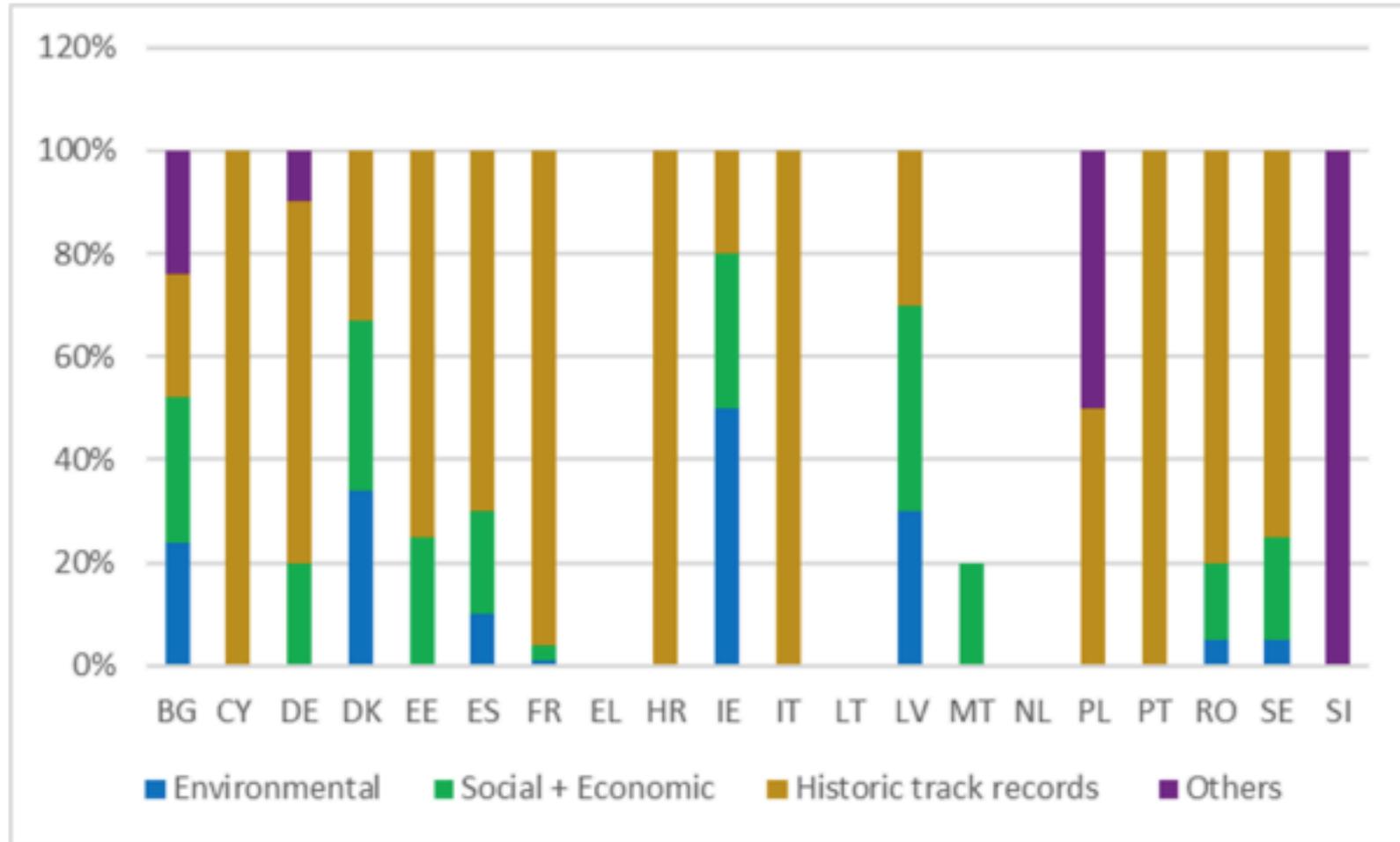
Source: STECF EWG 23/17)

EC suggests the possibilities of having the following <u>elements</u> in the vademecum on the allocation of fishing opportunities:

- ❖ A. General background and context
- ❖ B. Legal requirements about transparency and objectivity
- ❖ C. Clarification/illustration of the meaning of fishing opportunities
- ❖ D. Existing practices to allocate fishing opportunities based on social criteria
- ❖ E. Existing practices to allocate fishing opportunities based on environmental criteria

Questions on the suggested elements of the vademecum

- a. Do you agree with the elements to be included?

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- b. Do you have additional suggestions regarding the content?

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- c. Do you have comments about any of the specific sections (A, B, C, D or E)?

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Questions on the novel ways to allocate fishing opportunities

a. What do you think about the unique practices identified?

…

b. Could they be used more widely in the future?

…

c. How/at what point could they be introduced?

…

Other questions

- Do you have any comments about using the publication of National Fisheries Profiles, as a means to improve transparency on the use of article 17 by Member States?

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- Do you think transparency could be achieved by other means?

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- Would you like to participate in a workshop where some of these different practices are described in more detail?

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Vademecum on the allocation of fishing opportunities

*Consultation of stakeholders on s~~~ ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ -
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Thank you for your cooperation!

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