



## Working Group (WG1) LO

Outputs on Landing Obligation  
by STECF 55th Plenary summer  
meeting 10-14 July 2017, Brussels



# INTRODUCTION

## Contents

Main observations, comments and outputs of the 55<sup>o</sup> Plenary meeting report concerning the Landing Obligation

### **EWG 17-03 Evaluation of LO joint recommendations**

Additional information about the scientific methods and more details are available on the JRC website (PLEN-17-02 and EWG 17-03 Reports)

*The scientific output expressed in the Plenary meeting Report does not imply a policy position of the European Commission*

*Report of the 55th Plenary meeting of STECF*

### STECF EWG 17-03 was requested to:

- Screen any changes in the defined fisheries to be subject to the landing obligation in 2018 for potential anomalies which may create difficulties for managers and fishermen
- Review the supporting documentation underpinning exemptions on the basis of **high survivability** in respect of:
  - Exemptions agreed for 2017 on the basis of high survivability where there was a requirement for further information to be supplied
  - New exemptions based on high survivability (in data poor situations)

### STECF EWG 17-03 was requested to:

➤ Review the supporting documentation (biological, technical and/or economic) for the **de minimis** exemptions on the basis that:

- ✓ increasing selectivity is very difficult to achieve,
- ✓ to avoid handling unwanted catches would create disproportionate cost

in respect of:

- Exemptions agreed for 2017 where there was a requirement for further information to be supplied
- New exemptions (in data poor situations)

### STECF EWG 17-03 was requested to:

- Review whether there is sufficient information to support proposed **minimum conservation reference size(s)** that deviate from existing minimum landing sizes.
- Review the supporting documentation provided for technical measures aimed at **increasing gear selectivity** for reducing or, as far as possible, eliminating unwanted catches.
- Where Joint recommendations have not been put forward by the Member States for relevant sea basins, STECF will need to provide **input on the preparation of discard plans**.

### STECF EWG 17-03 observations:

- The Med MS submitted only **PESCAMEDJR** to the EWG 17-03
  
- **ADRIATICA and SUDESTMED JR** sent to STECF plenary and not reviewed by EWG 17-03
  - ✓ Not the same amount of scrutiny and consistency check than those addressed in the dedicated EWG
  - ✓ STECF emphasises that JR should be submitted in time for the EWG

### STECF EWG 17-03 observations:

#### Additional documents:

- by PESCAMED high level group on **fishery of Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*)** in Spain, France and Italy;
- Two reports provided by Italy on behalf of ADRIATICA on **Solemon project** (2015 and 2016) on survivability of common sole caught with rapido trawl in GSA17

➤ STECF encourages MS to systematically investigate potential studies and existing scientific articles, and review their main findings before any request is sent out to the EWG.

JR received by STECF Plenary  
Discard Plan for Certain Small Pelagic Fisheries  
in the GFCM/GSAs 17 and 18 (2018)  
**ADRIATICA**

“It is necessary a new discard plan for the small pelagic fisheries, in order to ensure that the existing measures remain in place for an additional three year period or until a relative multiannual plan is approved”



## ADRIATICA's General principles:

- a) any technical, control or compliance measures adopted for the pelagic fisheries in the Adriatic Sea be efficient, proportional, and enforceable upon all vessels operating under this discard plan
- b) increased selectivity, where possible, is the most desirable way to deliver compliance with the landing obligation

## STECF observation

- There is no indication or any detail within the JR as to how these principles will be met.

The accompanying letter from ADRIATICA states:

“Relating to the **high survivability exemption in purse seine fisheries** when the catch is released before the purse seine is closed, we consider that as in the Mediterranean Sea this practice is not forbidden by the technical measures regulation, there is no sense of asking for a high survivability exemption”

➤ STECF opinion on **slipping**: catches taken by purse seine vessels, even before the purse seine is closed, can only be released if an exemption from the Landing Obligation has been granted

## STECF observation on *slipping*

**Existing Commission Delegated Regulations** (NWW, SWW and the North Sea) authorise catches to be slipped where the following conditions are met:

- ✓ the catch is released before a defined **percentage** of the purse seine is closed ('the point of retrieval');
- ✓ the purse seine gear is fitted with **visible buoys clearly** marking the limit for the point of retrieval;
- ✓ the vessel and the purse seine gear are **equipped** with an electronic recording and documenting system **monitoring** when, where and the extent to which the purse seine has been hauled for all fishing operations.

The JR requests a **de minimis exemption** different from the exemptions currently included in the Regulation (EU) 1392/2014 concerning the species subject to minimum sizes in the small pelagic mid-water trawl and purse seines fisheries

➤ STECF notes that:

- ✓ no justification for the change in the de minimis volumes included in the JR
- ✓ the current discard rates are not indicated

JR received by STECF Plenary

For certain small pelagic fisheries in the South Eastern Mediterranean Sea GFCM /GSAs 15, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23 and 25

SUDESTMED

JR states the specific discard plan will be applicable to pelagic fisheries subject to minimum conservation reference size in South Eastern Mediterranean:

- ✓ GSA 18 is not included in the JR because it is included in the ADRIATICA JR
- ✓ JR includes GSA 25 (Cyprus) which was not included in article 2 (definitions) of Regulation (EU) No 1392/2014

*Report of the 55th Plenary meeting of STECF*

The JR requests a **de minimis exemption** different from the exemptions currently included in the Regulation (EU) 1392/2014 concerning the case of small pelagic purse seines fisheries

➤ STECF notes that:

- ✓ no justification for the change in the de minimis volumes included in the JR
- ✓ the current discard rates are not indicated

## EWG 17-03 Evaluation of LO joint recommendations

Main findings of the STECF EWG 17-03 and summary of additional information received relating to exemptions presented

DE MINIMIS		
Existing provision and was therefore not evaluated by EWG 17-03		
Western Med	Adriatic Sea	Eastern Med
Hake and red mullet by vessels using trawl nets	Hake and red mullet by vessels using trawl nets	South-Eastern Med Hake and red mullet by vessels using trawl nets
Hake and red mullet by vessels using gillnets	Hake and red mullet by vessels using gillnets	South-Eastern Med Hake and red mullet by vessels using gillnets
	Hake and red mullet using rapido (beam trawls)	South-Eastern Med Deep-water rose shrimp
	Common sole using trawl nets	
	Common sole using gillnets	

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HIGH SURVIVABILITY	
Western Med	Adriatic Sea
GSA 1, 2, 5 and 6 Scallop ( <i>Pecten jacobaeus</i> ) caught with mechanised dredges - Additional discard data required by delegated act were NOT provided	Common sole ( <i>Solea solea</i> ) caught with rapido (beam trawl) - USED METHOD WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TO ESTIMATE SURVIVABILITY
GSA 1, 2, 5 Carpet clams ( <i>Venerupis</i> spp.) caught with mechanised dredges - Additional discard data required by delegated act were NOT provided	
GSA 1, 2, 5 Venus shells ( <i>Venus</i> spp.) caught with mechanised dredges - Additional discard data required by delegated act were NOT provided	
PESCAMED area <i>Nephrops norvegicus</i> caught with trawls - REQUIRED INFORMATION NOT FULLY HOMOGENEOUS	



Main findings of the STECF EWG 17-03 and summary of additional information received relating to exemptions presented

### **HIGH SURVIVABILITY**

PESCAMED HLG request of a new exemption for ***Nephrops norvegicus*** caught with **trawls** in the western Mediterranean

Comments STECF PLEN 17-02:

- ✓ fisheries and fleet information provided for Spain and France is brief and not fully homogeneous
- ✓ No catch information is provided for Spain
- ✓ STECF wondered whether there could be an error in the information supplied by Italy - spiny lobster (*Palinurus elephas*) instead of Norway lobster (*Nephrops*)

Main findings of the STECF EWG 17-03 and summary of additional information received relating to exemptions presented

### **HIGH SURVIVABILITY**

MS should submit relevant data to the Commission to allow STECF to further assess the justification for the exemption of **common sole** caught with **rapido trawls** Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/86)

Conclusion of STECF PLEN 17-02:

“there are some indications of potential survival in this fishery, but the method used was not sufficient to derive robust and representative estimates of survival”

## EWG 17-03 Evaluation of LO joint recommendations

Main findings of the STECF EWG 17-03 and summary of additional information received relating to exemptions presented

JR EVALUATION		
Western Med	Adriatic Sea	Eastern Med
none of the JR received contain any concrete measures to promote an increased selectivity		
none of the JR received contain any concrete measure for the control and documentation of catches		
HLGs have not provided information to support the changes in the de minimis levels proposed		
	Request for high-survival exemption is necessary as slipping represents discarding - SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE REQUIRED	Absence of any justification for the inclusion of Cyprus in the JR for the South-eastern Mediterranean



Thanks for your  
attention!

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