North Sea Women’s Network

Working with the RACs
Lesley Duthie
What is North Sea Women’s Network?

- Formed in October 2003
- Aims to give women a united voice
- Members of North Sea states
- Seeking opportunities for communities
- Member of AKTEA
North Sea Women’s Network

- Works on relevant RACs to ensure the social impacts of fishing policy are taken into account by the Commission along with biological, technical and environmental considerations.
Wider EU Role

- Links with the new EU Economic Analysis Unit
- Provision of data, reports and experts to the EU
- Identify vulnerabilities of the fishing industry to changes in short and long-term fishing policy
- Examine factors that contribute to reliance on fisheries and resilience to changes in fisheries.
Our Aims as Women in Fisheries

- To be involved in decisions at EU level
- To bring a women’s perspective on the social and economic impact of past and future decisions
- To give fishing communities a voice through involvement in RACs
Working with the RACs

- What happens once our recommendations are passed on?
- Are our combined efforts wasted?
RAC Recommendations

- North Sea Herring stocks
- ICES involvement
- Pelagic RAC recommendations to revise TACs
NS herring TAC revision

This is a purely socio-economic discussion.

There simply are no biological arguments to claim that the correction could not be made.

The resistance that the PRAC met from the EC on this, first surprised us, then slowly started to worry us, but over the course of this year has become a huge frustration to the industry members of the PRAC.

They just not feel that they are being taken seriously.

Extract from Presentation by PRAC Secretariat
Concluding Remarks

- The Women's Network, by their involvement in the RACs hope to improve the social and economic future of our communities

Thank You