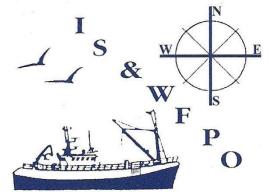


Trish South and West Fish Producers' Organisation Ltd.



# Assessment of the Landing Obligation 19th February 2019 In Brussels

Presentation Given by PATRICK MURPHY. CEO. IS&WFPO



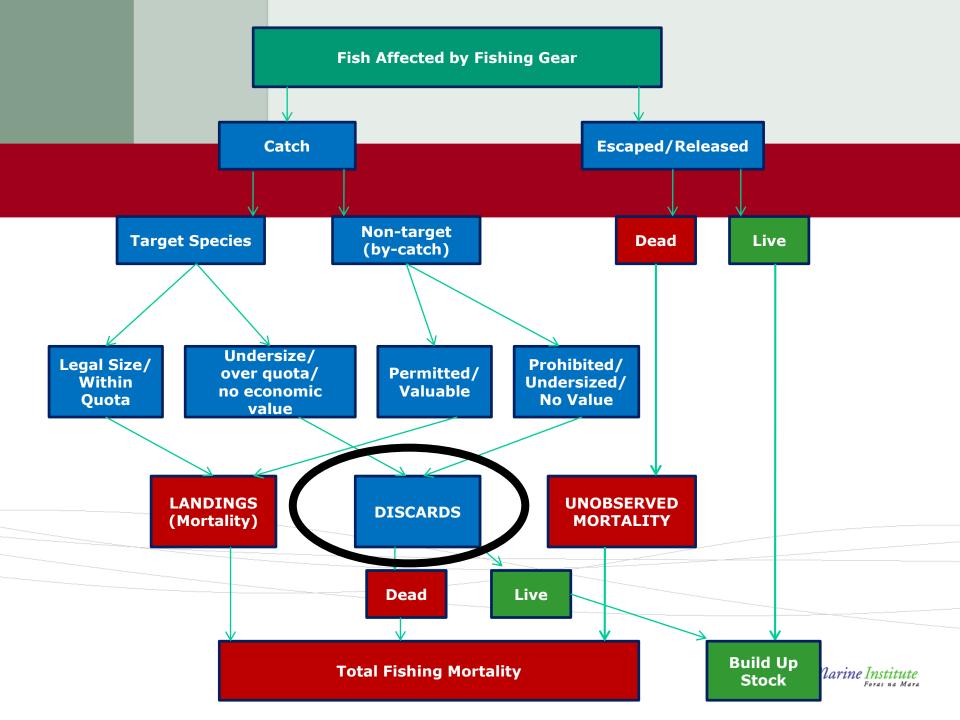
#### PELAGIC

#### Demersal









### Some Discards Types

- Mixed Fisheries discards
- Juvenile discards
- Over quota discards
- Unwanted species discards
- High grading discards
- Slipping discards
- Live returns

# What is the 'Landing Obligation' (also known as the 'discards ban')?

- The Landing Obligation (LO) is a requirement to retain catches on board and was to end the wasteful practice of throwing overboard perfectly good fish, it is also intended through its implementation to introduce measures which will reduce the future catches of previously discarded fish, for under previous Common fishery policies only vessels with the sufficient quota were able to retain and land all their catches.
- Under the 2013 Common fishery Policy, the landing Obligation requires fishers keep, record and land catches of all quota species for it is now the reverse and it is now illegal to return them to the sea.
- All unintended catches of quota species identified to be included in the Discards Ban both above and below MCRS have to be landed and <u>are counted against the member states national quota</u>.

#### Exemptions to the Landing Obligation

- Fish which have been damaged by predators (e.g. 'seals)
- Species not managed under the TAC & Quota system
- Fish species covered by a high survivability exemption
- Catches falling under deminimis (an allowance to discard a certain amount of fish subject to specific conditions)



## In Ireland the Landing Obligation was phased in over four years.

- It began with pelagic fisheries in 2015 and was extended to some demersal fisheries in 2016.
- In Ireland our Minister Michael Creed introduced a quota Balancing pilot project for Pelagic Species in 2018.
  - This was a pilot scheme for pelagic stocks.
  - Where a vessel exceeds its catch limit, the excess catches retained on board and landed will be subject to quota balancing.
  - Quota balancing means that deductions will be made from future allocations of fishing opportunities.
  - The greater the extent of overfishing relative to permitted catch, the greater the deduction(s) that will be made (A multiplying factor shall apply).
  - The implementation of quota balancing by Irelands Department of Marine will operate independently of any action being considered or taken by the control authorities.

#### Difference in Pelagic & Demersal

- This pelagic Quota Balancing policy differs in its application to the demersal quota balancing policy in that:-
- the pelagic species are balanced on the vessels <u>vearly landings</u> but
- demersal are to be balanced on monthly landings.

# The landing Obligation now applies to all quota species since the beginning of 2019.

The Landing Obligation was one of the more significant changes in legal obligations in recent years and affects each and every fisherman.

Irish fishermen's main target species covered under the Landing Obligation now require a significant change in their previous fishing practices so they can attempt to avoid catches of these species limited by our monthly quota allocations.



#### Irish Demersal fishermen must;

- Identify which of their target species that will now have to be dealt with differently so as not to prematurely end their fishing for the month;
- Decide what type of selective fishing gear to carry on the vessel that you are allowed to use to avoid certain low quota species;
- Calculate what species to target so they will earn a viable living by using the various selective gears that match the set catch compositions;
- Decide once you receive the monthly allocations where and when to target certain species of fish;
- Calculate what additional fuel they will require to move to the various fishing grounds to avoid catching potential choke species;

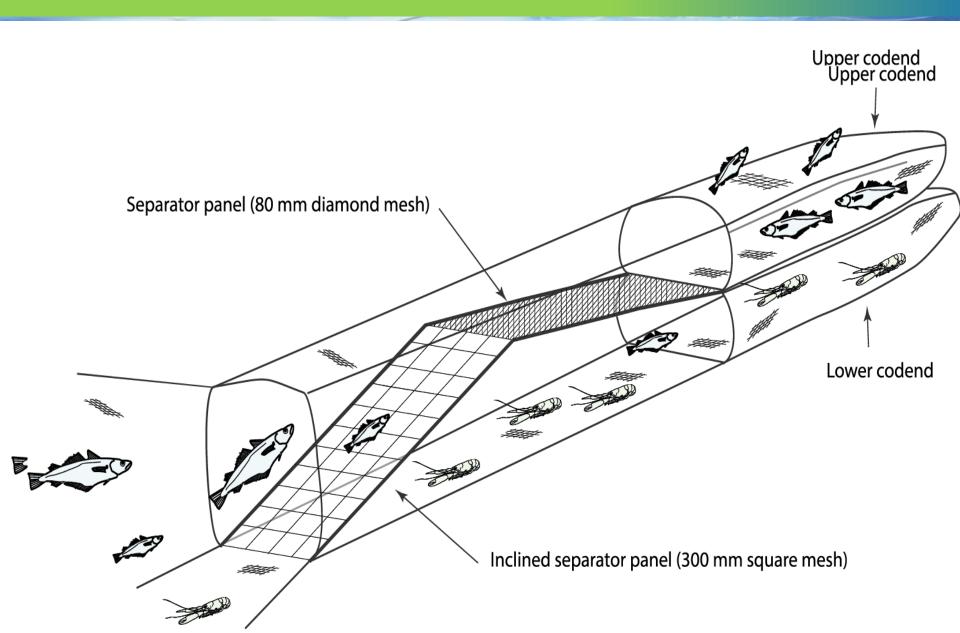
# ❖Discarding fish is very unpopular with both fishermen and fish consumers, and is rightly considered an unnecessary and wasteful practice.





Clockwise from top left: The catch from a normal codend, illustration of the dual codend with net separator, and resulting separated catches of *Nephrops* and fish

#### Nephrops and fish (Dual codend)



# • These undersized fish are not to be sold for direct human consumption **but** can be used for example for; mink feed, bait, fish meal, fish oil, pet food, food additives, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.

• The LO is designed to minimise discarding and to encourage fishermen to choose the best fishing methods to achieve higher-value catches in a sustainable way – a way that will protect our seas and the fishing industry in the decades ahead.

## The Implications of the Landing obligation for the Irish whitefish fleet.

## A pilot scheme for demersal stocks within Ireland's demersal fleet.



- •Quota Balancing means that where a vessel exceeds its catch limit for a relevant stock during a fishery management period, a balancing adjustment is made from a future catch limit for that vessel.
- •A multiplying factor applies so that the greater the excess catch when compared with the catch limit, the larger the balancing adjustment that will be made.

## The Implications of the Landing obligation for the Irish whitefish fleet.

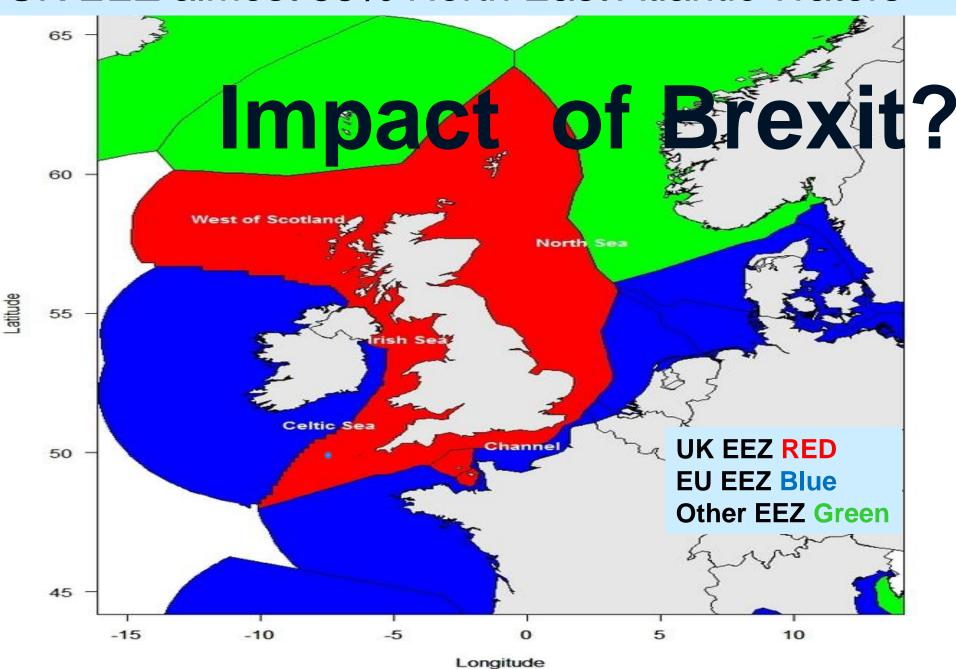
- A Quota Balancing system is being introduced on a phased basis to assist with the full implementation of the Landing Obligation requirements. The objective of the Landing Obligation is to eliminate the wasteful and unsustainable practice of discarding fish at sea.
- The Quota Balancing system is a management, conservation and rational exploitation measure that will aid the Minister in matching catch limit to actual catch to support the Landing Obligation requirements.
- The arrangements will aim to provide for a small by-catch for the relevant demersal stocks to support the continuation of other fisheries in the area, as long as there is national quota available.

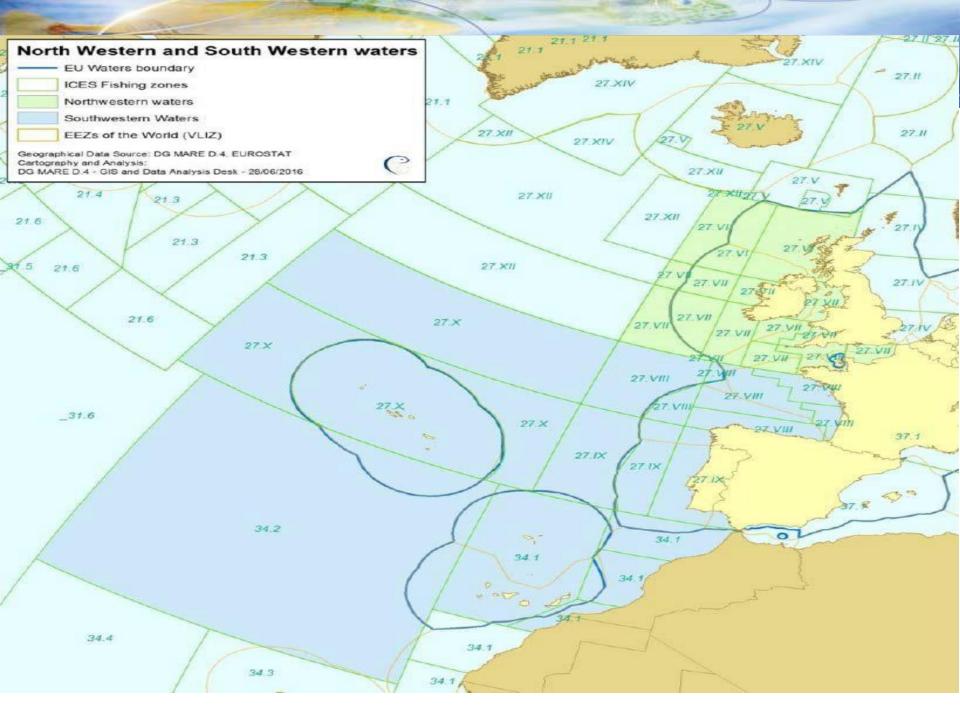
### Extent of overfishing relative to permitted catch limit

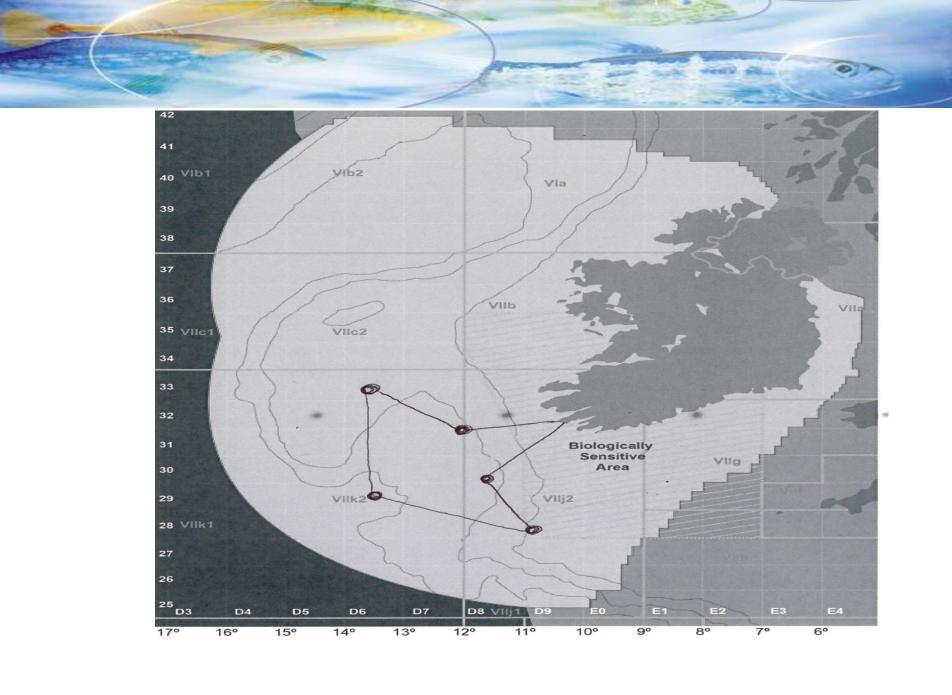
#### **Multiplying factor**

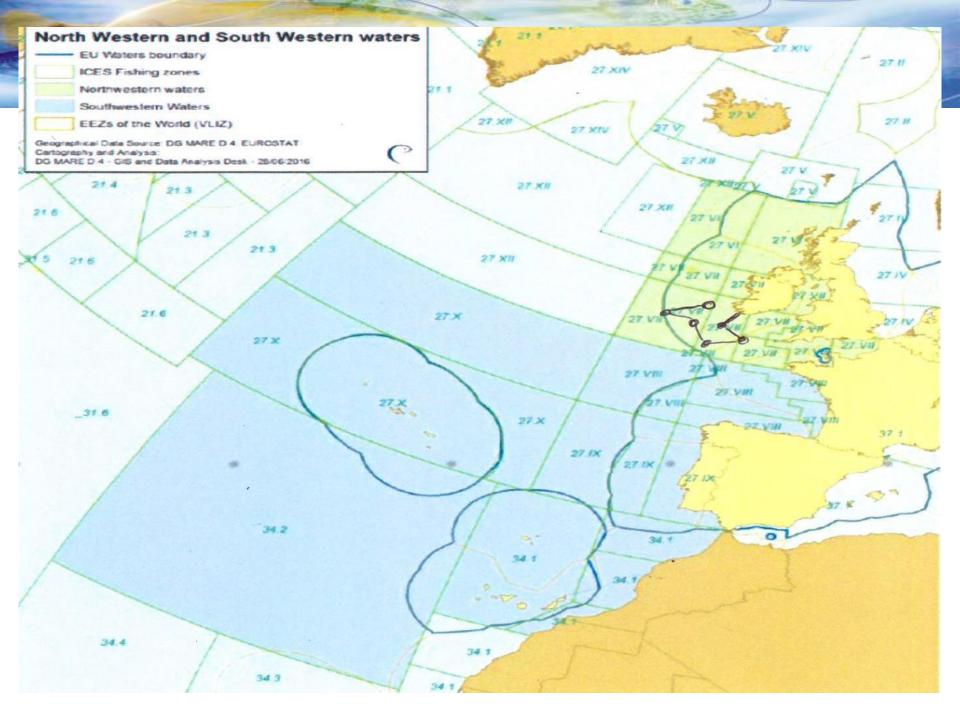
Up to 10% of allocation	Overfishing 1.0
Over 10% up to 20%	Overfishing 1.2
Over 20% up to 40%	Overfishing 1.4
Over 40% up to 50%	Overfishing 1.8
Any further overfishing	
greater than 50%	Overfishing 2.0
Fishing without a catch/	
By-catch limit for a relevant stock	
(or in a zone where the vessel is not	
permitted to fish)	Overfishing 2.0

#### UK EEZ almost 33% North East Atlantic Waters





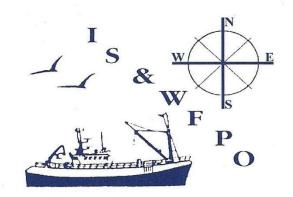




#### **Conclusions**

- > Recognise major problems still exist
- > By-catches Zero TAC options positive
- Emphasis on minimisation & avoidance Art. 14 CFP
- Much avoid early closures of fisheries during 2019 full implementation phase
- Need level playing field control & enforcement

# Trish South and West Fish Producers' Organisation Ltd.



Thank You for Your attention.

Patrick Murphy
CEO – I.S.&W.F.P.O.