

# Sate of play implementation Art 15 CFP -“the EU Landing Obligation”-

Pim Visser, chief executive VisNed

# About VisNed

- National Association 5/7 Dutch Demersal Fish Producer Organisations
- Fishery Policy
- Spatial Planning at Sea
- Sustainability, Market Issues + Certification
- Social and Technical Issues and Innovation
- Involvement with Science
  - Projects
  - Data gathering and engagement in ICES process

# Sustainable Seafood for European markets





# It's about fishermen and their families



# Sole and Plaice: Rizla vs Cardboard



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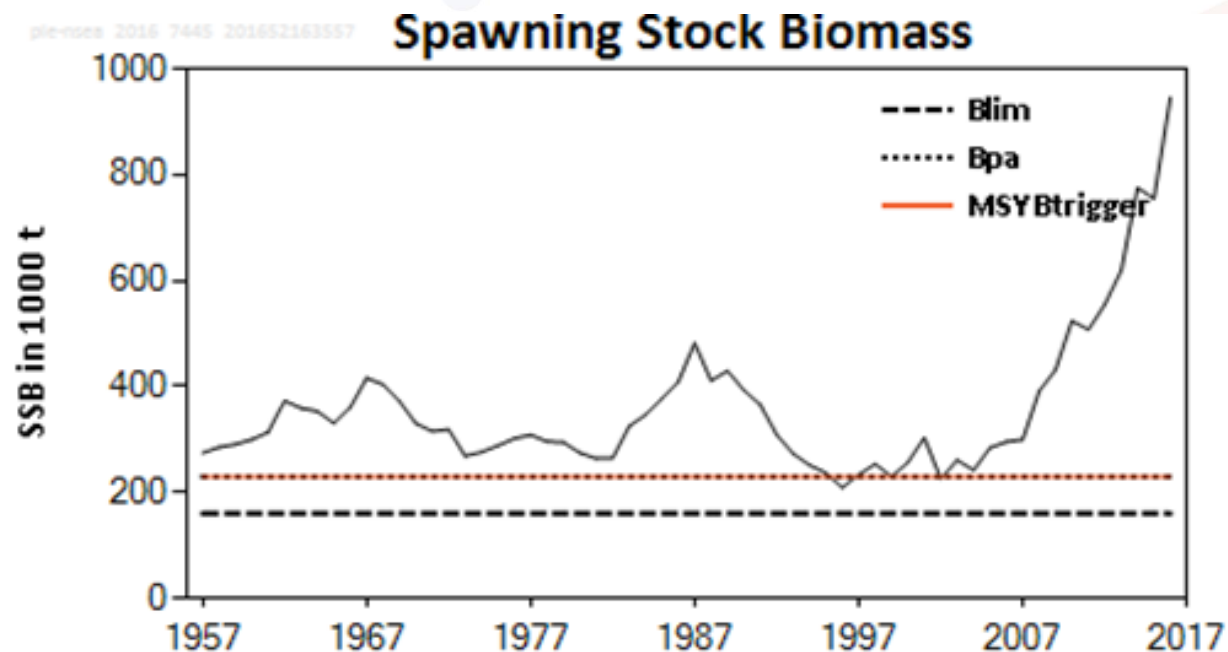
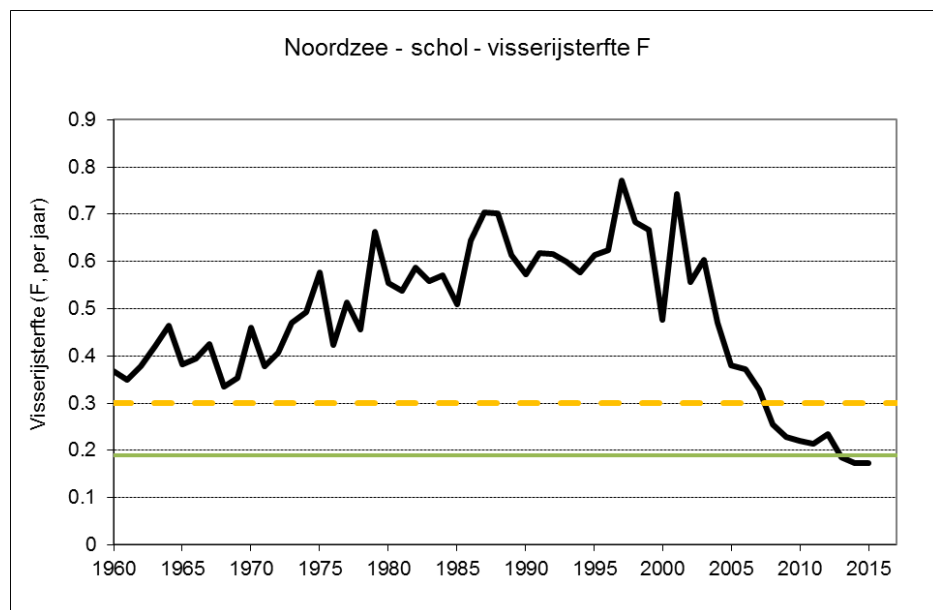
# Our Sole and Plaice dilemma

To catch Sole mesh size  $\leq$  80mm

Escape juvenile Plaice cs mesh size  $>$  120  
mm



# North Sea Plaice Stock development



# Management is about Fishers

- Fisheries can only be managed through fishers behaviour
  - In that respect this LO is not fit for purpose
- Stocks develop under influence of management
  - A LO is not a management instrument so.....
- Science should help to influence fishers behaviour
  - So science can help in developing better management
- Joint projects by fishers and scientists are essential



# Development of EU Landing Obligation

- Call for reducing discards through a ban
- Ill considerations have lead to huge problems
  - Category 4 discards (too low EU TAC) in Mixed Fisheries > Chokes
  - BMS fish in Mixed Fisheries > Chokes
- But the Landing Obligation is a fact of life
- So is the paradigm shift from 'landings' TAC to 'catch' TAC
  - But this LO is not an instrument of Fisheries Management
- We needed a surgical knife but got an axe instead

# Development of EU Landing Obligation

- LO as stimulus for improving knowledge
  - Projects Best Practices and Projects on Survival
- LO as stimulus for reducing discards
  - Projects to increase selectivity
  - Projects to improve survival
    - Linked to improved knowledge on survival
    - Deck technology is a marginal factor
    - In net impact is the all determining factor
  - How improve survival if % is almost a 'given'

# The best Practices I and II project

- Discardtrips
  - Great variability in discards per haul during trip
  - Plaice largest component in discards (62%)
  - To keep workpressure equal 3.6 extra crew needed
  - Additional net shore processing costs € 1.500
- Increase the mesh size from 80 > 90 mm
  - Reduction of marketable Sole abt 20 % = abt € 5.000 per week
  - Reduction in (Plaice) discards abt 15%
  - Conclusion: more discards per landed kilo of Sole





# The best Practices I and II project

- Survival in relation to stock development:
  - In case of landing obligation exemption with  $F$  at or below  $F_{msy}$ 
    - Marketable Landings are up
    - Biomass is down (but this is not a goal)
  - Distribution patterns differ greatly
    - Move on means 65-400 km so is unrealistic
  - Decrease MCRS of Plaice from  $27 > 25$  cm
    - A reduction in discards of 6,500 tonnes



# The Survival project

- 15 trips, keeping discards 2 weeks in Laboratory conditions
  - Survival rates Skates and rays from 40 – 65%
  - Survival rates Plaice from 11-20%
  - Survival rates Sole from 13-28%
- Condition score determines survival
  - On board processing limited improvement
- New project underway for improved net design



# Increasing Selectivity I and II

- Limited knowledge on fish behaviour
  - Blurry images underwater footage
- Panels to separate Sole and other flatfish difficult to develop
- Ideas from fishers:
  - Sep net in nephrops fishery
  - KIWI cod end to improve escape
  - Swedish grid in nephrops
- A continuing story





# Fully Documented Fisheries project

- Registration is key
- Estimation impossible
- Image recognition in its infancy
  - Mix in the catch with benthic materials
  - Feeding the software by human input
  - Machine Learning
  - Supporting development of gear selectivity
- Research and registration Instrument not a Control Tool



# Thank you for your attention!

## Our take home message for the coming CFP update:

***Discard this Landings Obligation!  
Full force on improving selectivity !***

Pim Visser, chief executive VisNed