

# The Landing Obligation:

## State of the art in fisheries policy and science

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IFREMER / DTU Aqua

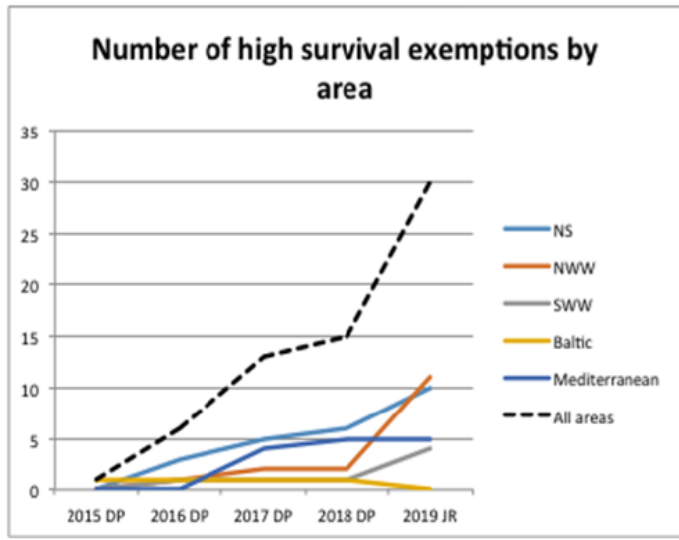
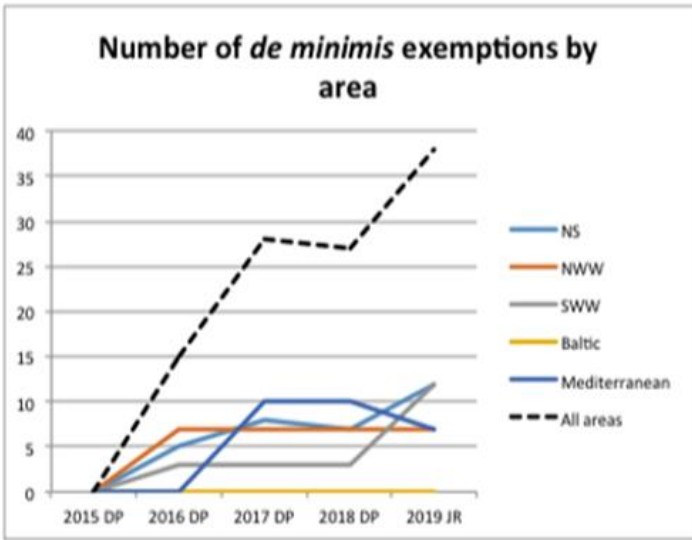
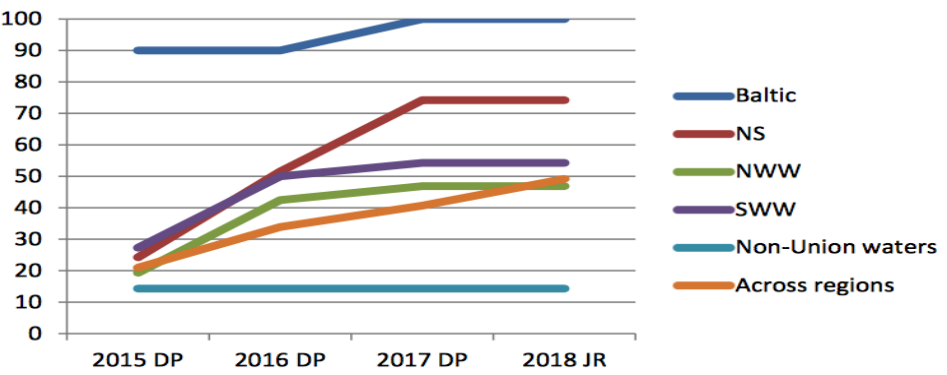
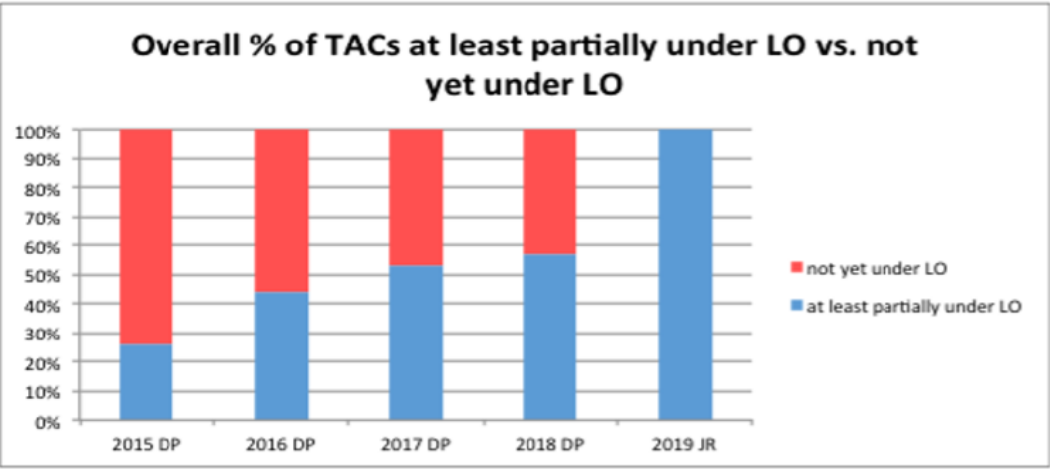




# I. Policy: Four years of implementation of the EU landing Obligation (2015-2019)

## *Progresses on the regulatory side / regionalisation ....*

Regional discard plans (DP) adopted annually laying down the calendar of implementation (species\*fisheries) and the exemptions (high survivability, de minimis)



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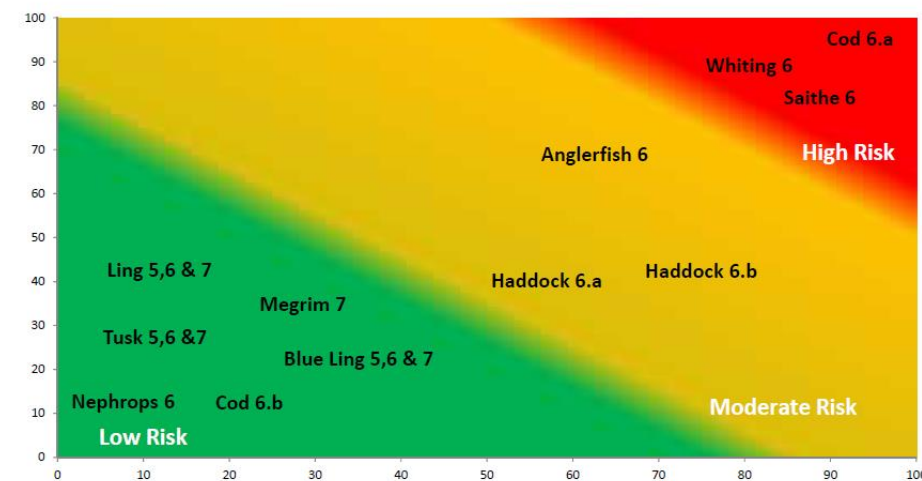
## *Progresses on reaching common understanding on discard causes and quantification of risks of choke species ....*

Choke categories:

- Category 1: Sufficient quota at Member State level, but poorly distributed within a country  
**issue at PO/individual level**
- Category 2: Sufficient quota at EU level but insufficient at Member State level,  
**relative stability issue**
- Category 3: Insufficient quota at EU level,  
**overfished stock**
- Category 4: Economic choking  
**large quantities of low value fish.**

NorthWestern Advisory Council 2017  
Rihan 2018

### Results – West of Scotland & Rockall



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## ***Stakeholders' perception: A slow evolution***

# DiscardLess conference Table Discussions 30/01/2019

- Awareness and dialogue
- Collaboration with scientists / authorities
- Mindset shift and new eyes on old issues
- Can improve the reputation of the sector
- Level playing field
- Aiming at reducing discards make sense...
- ....

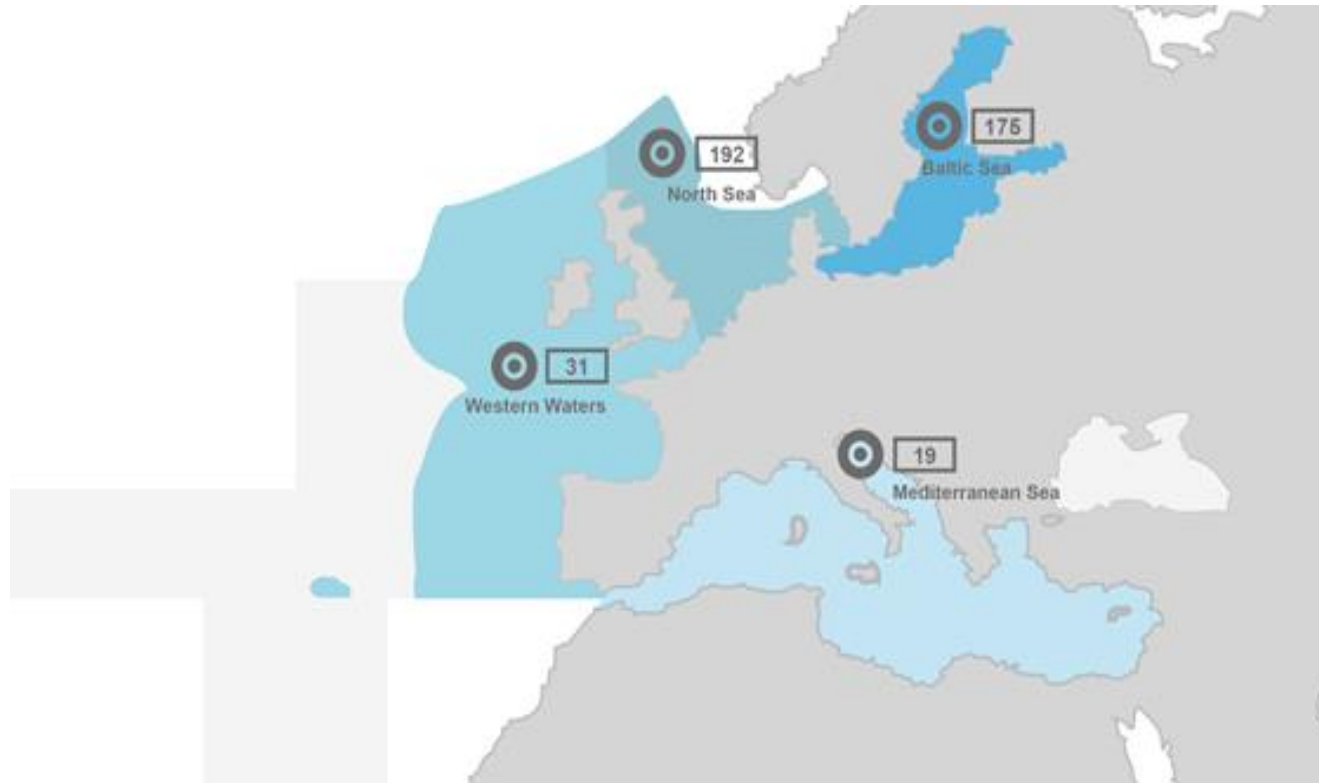


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## *Some progresses on compliance monitoring ....*

European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) and Member States conduct Joint Deployment Plans of patrol vessels (Last Haul analysis)



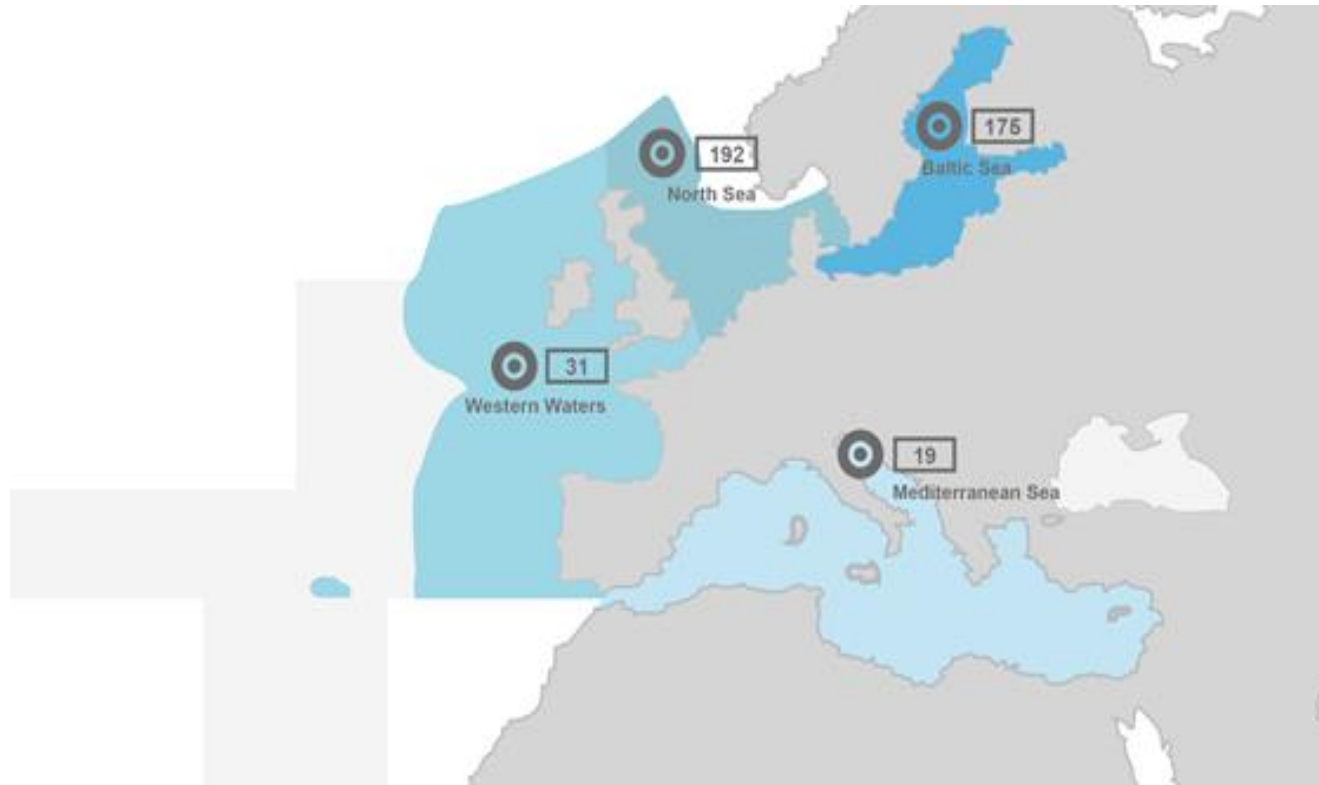
EU Com SWD(2019) 205



# I. Policy: Four years of implementation of the EU landing Obligation (2015-2019)



*But in reality VERY small progresses so far ....*



EU Com SWD(2019) 205:  
« the results of the last haul analysis point in the direction of a very poor implementation of the landing obligation and of a generally widespread non-compliance »

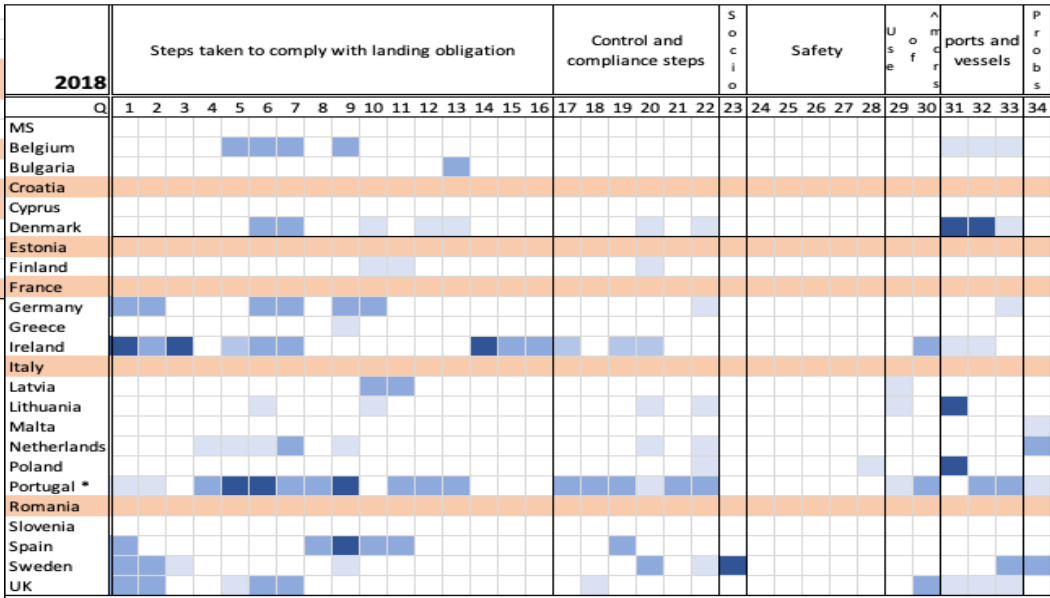
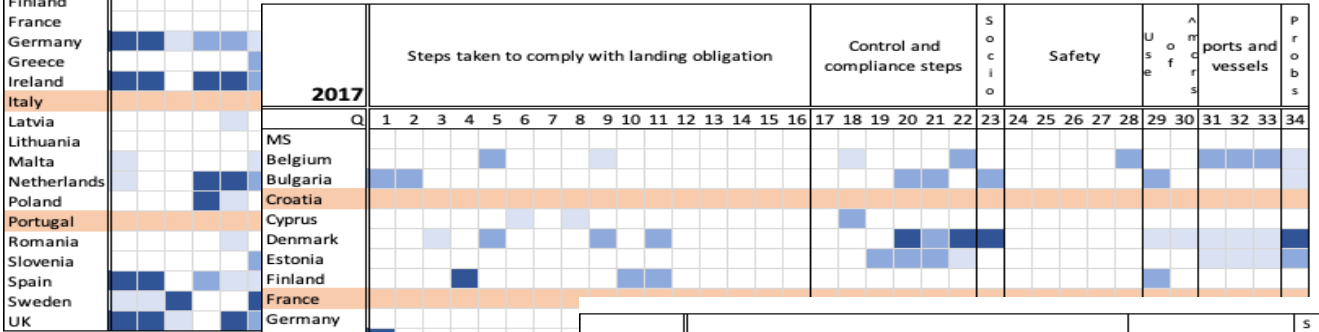
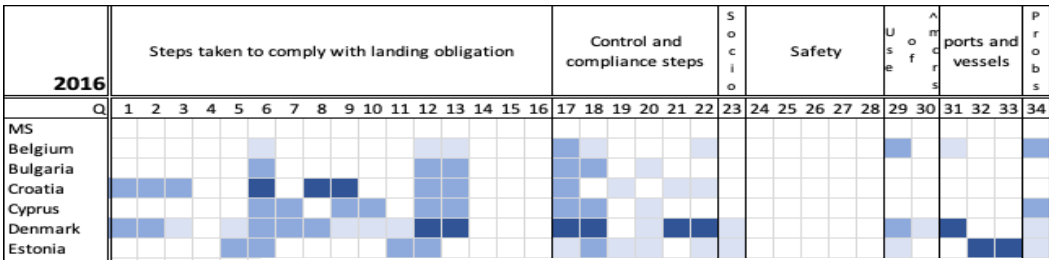
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Member States report annually to EU Com, results summarised by STECF PLEN 19-01

Member States	2016	2017	2018
Belgium			
Bulgaria			
Croatia			
Cyprus			
Denmark			
Estonia			
Finland			
France			
Germany			
Greece			
Ireland			
Italy			
Latvia			
Lithuania			
Malta			
Netherlands			
Poland			
Portugal			1st report
Romania			
Slovenia			
Spain			
Sweden			
United Kingdom			

Key	2016	2017-2018
	No Report	No Report
	No information	No change
	Significant information	Significant change

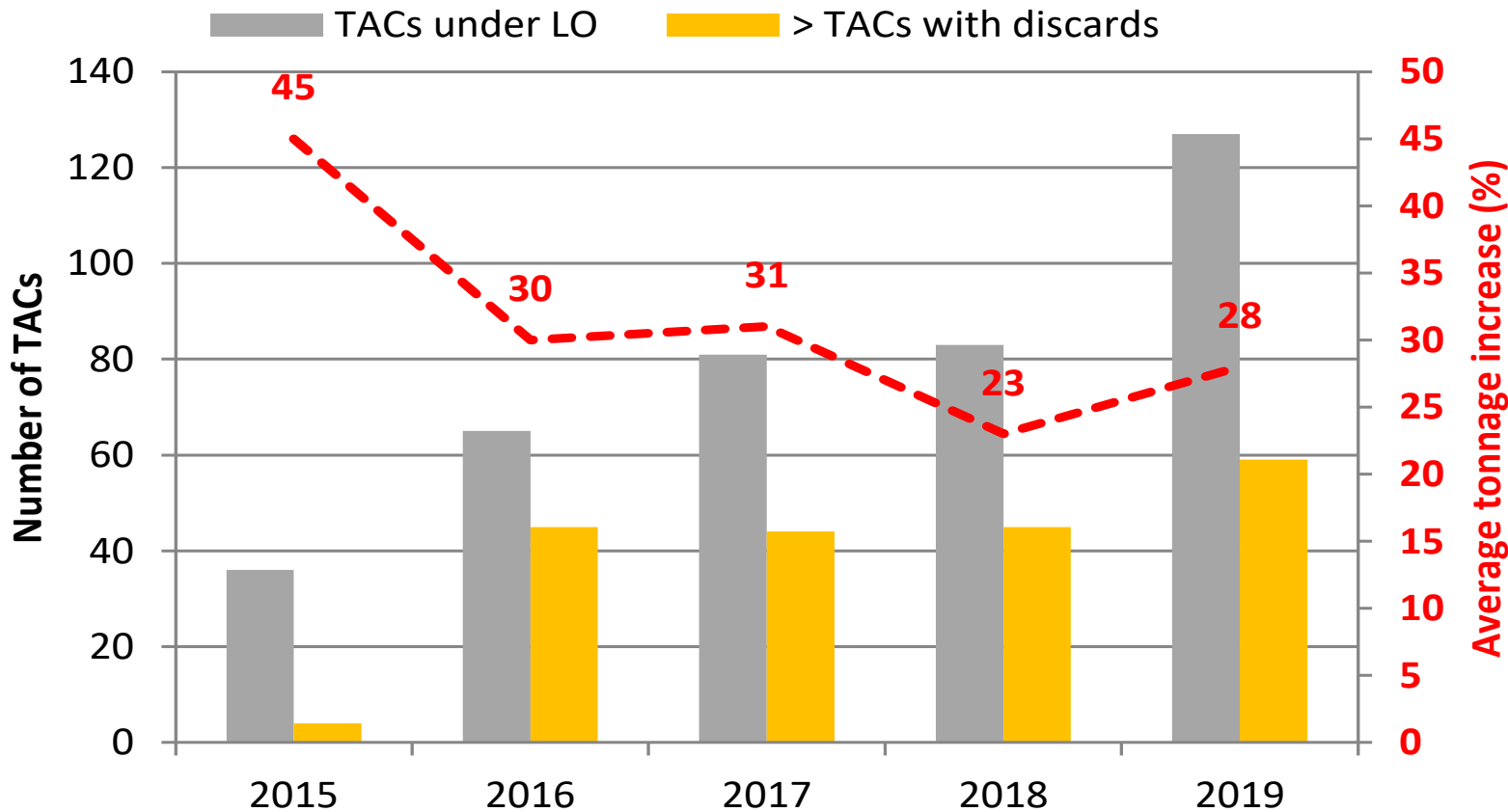


\*Reporting for the first time - see key adjacent to 2016 figure



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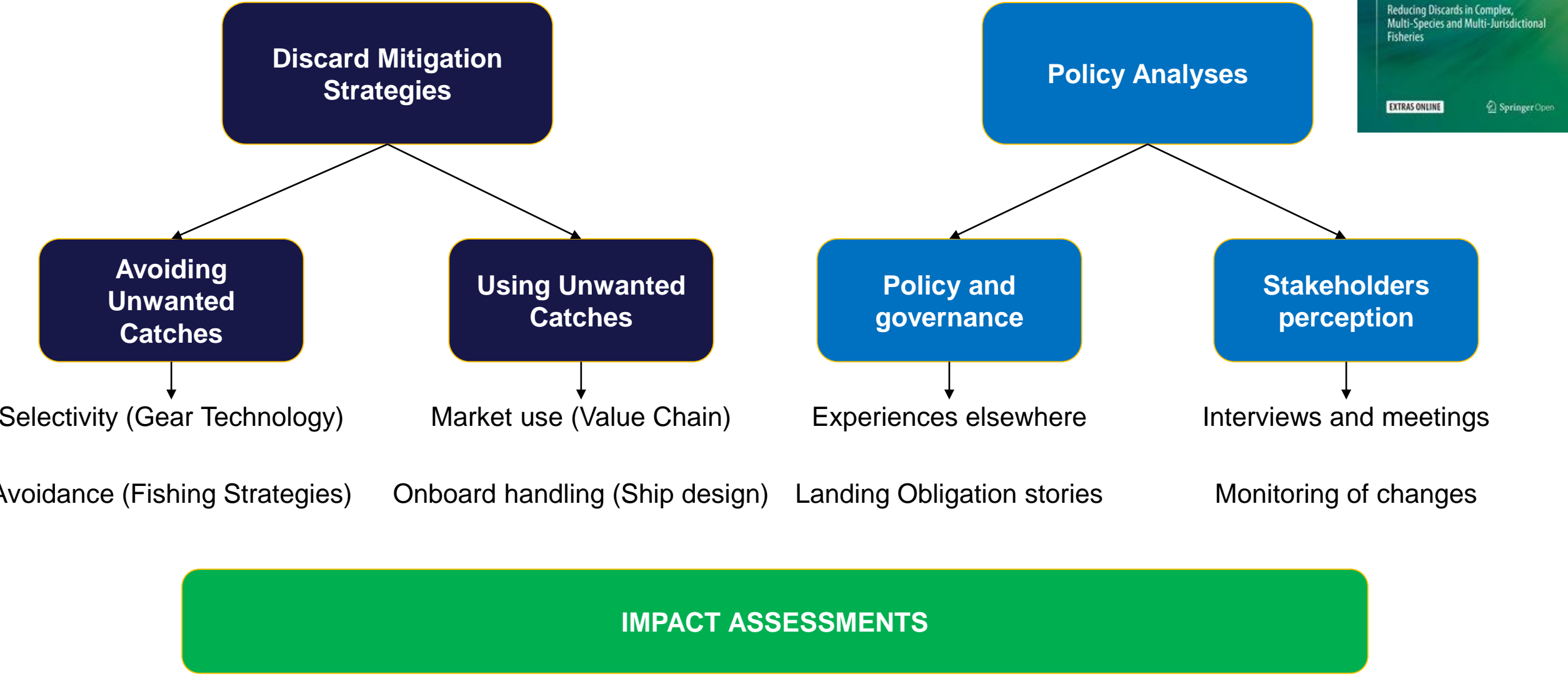
*TACs are increased....*



If TACs are increased and discarding continues there is a risk that fishing mortality increases!



# II. Science: Building knowledge on discards and on mitigation options



*Iceland and Norway: Learning from experiences*

- Development of UUC markets and logistics
- Evolution of Control and Monitoring
- Flexible regulation

*Celtic Sea: Choke species*

- Selectivity catalogue
- Challenge experiment
- Maps and Apps
- Management-related choke
- Information sharing

*Bay of Biscaye: Best Use of UUC*

- Valorisation catalogue
- Prioritisation methodology
- Pilot trial
- Sorting at shore
- Genetic tests

*Azores: DeepWater*

- Species identification
- J-shaped hook better than circle hook
- Handline better than longline
- Spatial measures difficult but depth stratification promising
- Better handling for better survival

*West Med: Juvenile hake*

- Scope for improved selectivity
- Sensitive habitats
- Maps and Apps

*North Sea: WoS: Diversity of issues*

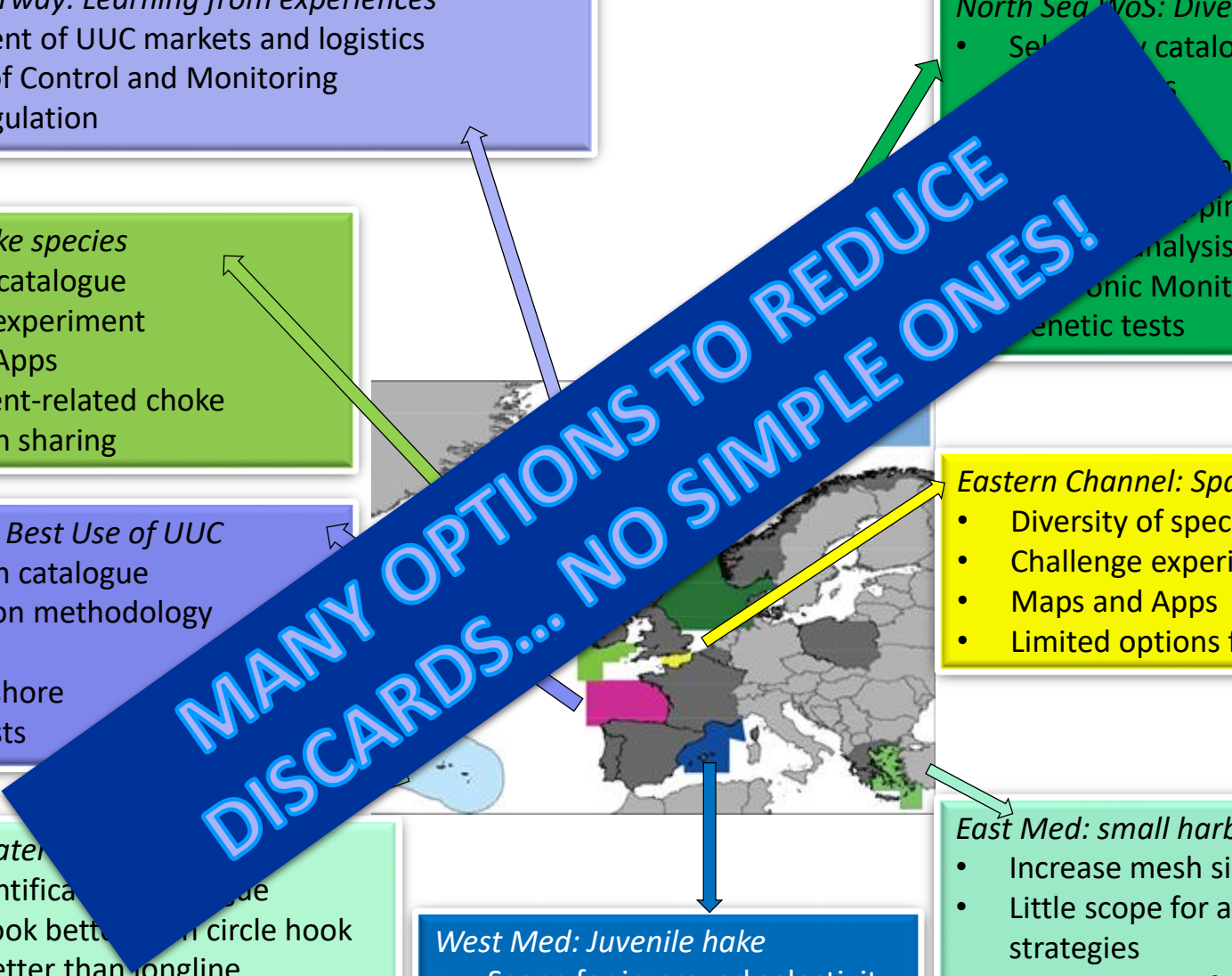
- Selectivity catalogue and analyses of trawl
- Industry-led experiments
- Analysis
- Electronic Monitoring
- Genetic tests

*Eastern Channel: Spatial use*

- Diversity of species
- Challenge experiment
- Maps and Apps
- Limited options for displacement

*East Med: small harbours*

- Increase mesh size
- Little scope for avoidance strategies
- Investigation of small treatment units at shore (fishmeal, silage)
- Main barrier is transport costs



# III. Looking ahead? The crucial importance of monitoring ALL Catches

Well designed EM trigger positive changes in selectivity and avoidance

BUT will not solve all the fundamental causes of discarding in mixed fisheries, incl. inequal access to quota, choke species and technical interactions.

-> Mix of actions needed



ORIGINAL ARTICLE | Open Access |

## Electronic monitoring in fisheries: Lessons from global experiences and future opportunities

Aloysius T.M. van Helmond✉, Lars O. Mortensen, Kristian S. Plet-Hansen, Clara Ulrich, Coby L. Needle, Daniel Oesterwind, Lotte Kindt-Larsen, Thomas Catchpole, Stephen Mangi ... See all authors ▾

First published: 14 November 2019 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/faf.12425>

**Technical guidelines and specifications for the implementation of Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) in EU fisheries**

European Fisheries Control Agency  
Vigo, 2019

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 30.5.2018  
COM(2018) 368 final  
2018/0193 (COD)

Proposal for a

**REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**

**amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, and amending Council Regulations (EC) No 768/2005, (EC) No 1967/2006, (EC) No 1005/2008, and Regulation (EU) No 2016/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards fisheries control**

{ SEC(2018) 267 final } - { SWD(2018) 279 final } - { SWD(2018) 280 final }

Landing obligation	New: 25a	The amendments mandate the use of remote electronic monitoring tools, in particular CCTVs, for the control of the landing obligation. The new provisions will affect individual vessels and fleet segments according to risk assessment, and shall be implemented by Member States at regional level.
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# Conclusions

- A lot has happened in policy and science – The landing obligation has triggered an intense dynamic of dialogue and awareness that wouldn't have taken place otherwise
- but 2019 objectives likely not reached and only little visible discards reductions yet...
- The LO has remained very unpopular in the fishing industry, and not fully supported by national authorities. Incentives to comply have remained weak.
- There are many options for reducing discards. But no simple and one-size-fits-all ones... Multiple actions and proper incentives needed.
- TACs have been increased and exemptions have been given but discarding continue. This goes against the MSY objectives. Also, uncertain catch data undermines the quality of stock assessment
- Recognition that control and enforcement are absolutely insufficient. The current procedures cannot control the LO effectively.
- There is a major push towards the use of REM but reluctance remains strong. Control regulation still in discussion.