Thinking about 2020 and onwards: Fisheries Management issues & next EMFF

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700 Vessels – 336 millions Euros – Top 1 European PO’s
What’s Going on - MSY?

- Year after year, the number of stocks MSY is increasing
- General Increase in biomass and then, general increase in vessels yields
- Poor TAC’s decision process: mainly on a yearly basis, no coherence as regards catch compositions
- Skippers do business as usual, establishing their strategy having regards to main commercial species

Figure 4. Relative proportion of stocks assessed as net overfished (fishing mortality at or below $F_{MSY}$) of the total assessed stocks in the North-East Atlantic, North Sea and Baltic Sea in EU waters and contiguous shared stocks.
What’s Going on – Landing obligation?

Reminder:

- Art. 15 = double decision (management + ethics)
- Very low acceptability, due to high socio-economic risks
- Art 15 offers a broad range: from the statu quo to the early stop of quite an amount of vessels (not only trawlers!)
- After 4 years of small steps policy, and some important delays in the adoption of EU important tools (Management plan..), No direction, No vision
Landing Obligation: 2019 and onwards

2019: some efforts will be made, but will they be sufficient to respect the CFP? Depend on the interpretation.

2019 and onwards: as the general framework is not supposed to be changed, each one will try to save time, until new decision, or preliminary infringement procedures

What could really help...

- To have a real direction from Institutions. Including clear objectives and safeguards
- To have a real discussion in order to deal with and to end useless discards, while not putting at risk all our fishing economy
- To have a real transition period, ie, a political freeze
- To dispose of all the fleet management tools (Scratching, Temporary stops..)

- At least: “pragmatic” implementation of Art. 15
* Discard is a triple penalty: economic, moral, and human time consuming. Fishermen have no interest in discarding.
* Discarding is very often the consequence of Yearly and single stock TAC setting.
* In a context of a hard brexit, the Landing Obligation will be a secondary issue.
* Who would accept additional work without being paid for it??
Fishermen do no want subsidies
As flexibility will be needed, collective management appears necessary...(PO – PMP)
All tools must be available

To Public leaders:
- Be ready for everything....
- Don’t underestimate the resilience of fishermen
- But in the meantime, don’t underestimate the mid-term potential disorganisation
- Move now if you want to maintain your small ports and small vessels