

# Year 2 of the Landing Obligation: key issues in Mediterranean Fisheries



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# Objectives of Policy Brief

## Overview of Mediterranean LO

- current status
- stakeholder perceptions
- barriers and opportunities

## For who?

Policy makers, fishing industry, NGO's and general public

Based on interviews, meetings & policy documents.





# Mediterranean Landing Obligation



Med - 21 coastal countries

Complex fisheries – fleets, species diversity, management

Many stocks have poor status

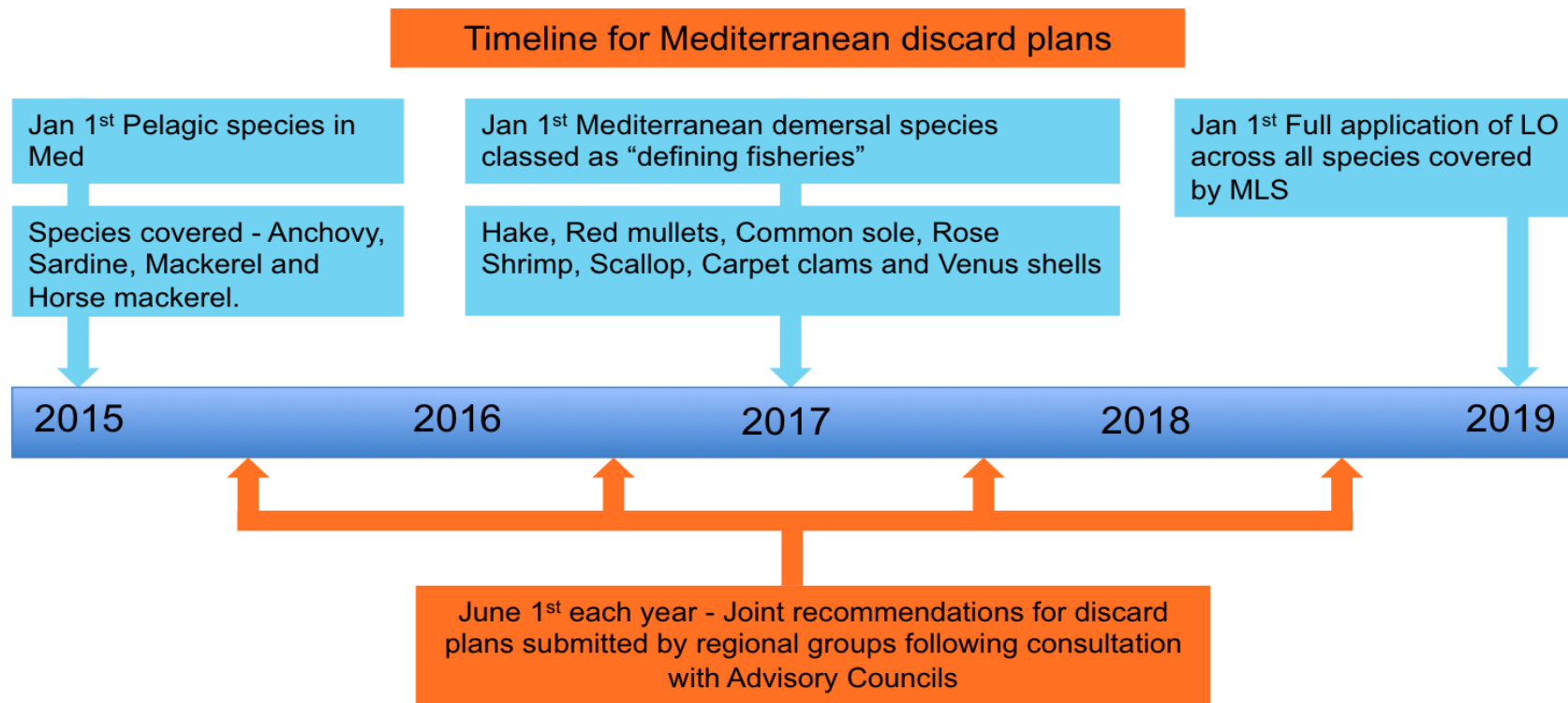
8 countries subject to Landing Obligation - France, Italy, Greece, Spain, Cyprus, Malta, Slovenia & Croatia

# Mediterranean Landing Obligation

- Species with a Minimum Conservation Reference Size - 20 fish, 4 crustacean and 3 bivalves.
- Under MCRS fish must be landed but not used for human consumption.
- Exemptions:  
High survival or *de minimis*



# Mediterranean Discard Plans



# Med Discard Plans – STECF points

- Patchy discard data
- *De minimis* exemptions
- Nursery areas.
- Selectivity projects
- Undersized fish market



# Overall view



## Fishing Industry

- Fishers - limited LO knowledge
- Negative opinion
- LO for quota fisheries
- Reps concerned about economics & timescale.



# Overall View



## NGOs

- Exemptions prioritised over selectivity

## Administrators

- Reduce discards and resource waste.
- Time demands
- Policy reversal – Market Risk

# Key Issues – Pelagic LO



- No major problems yet due to *de minimis* exemptions and possibility to slip catches.
- Derogation for bluefin tuna (BFT) and swordfish

# Handling unwanted catches



## Industry

- Storage space - small pelagics
- Extra costs
- Vessel safety
- Port Infrastructure
- Discard processing
- Transport costs

# Handling unwanted catches



## NGO's

- no point developing new sectors based on discards
- discard income shared by community



# Avoiding discards

- Selectivity improvements
- 40mm square mesh cod-end ✓
- Universal implementation
- >legal mesh sizes - red mullet and cuttlefish fisheries
- Voluntary daily vessel quotas (200 kg) in Balearic islands



# Avoiding discards

## Spatial management

- mapping juvenile hotspots
- discard maps by species and gear
- real time closures
- new permanent closures not supported



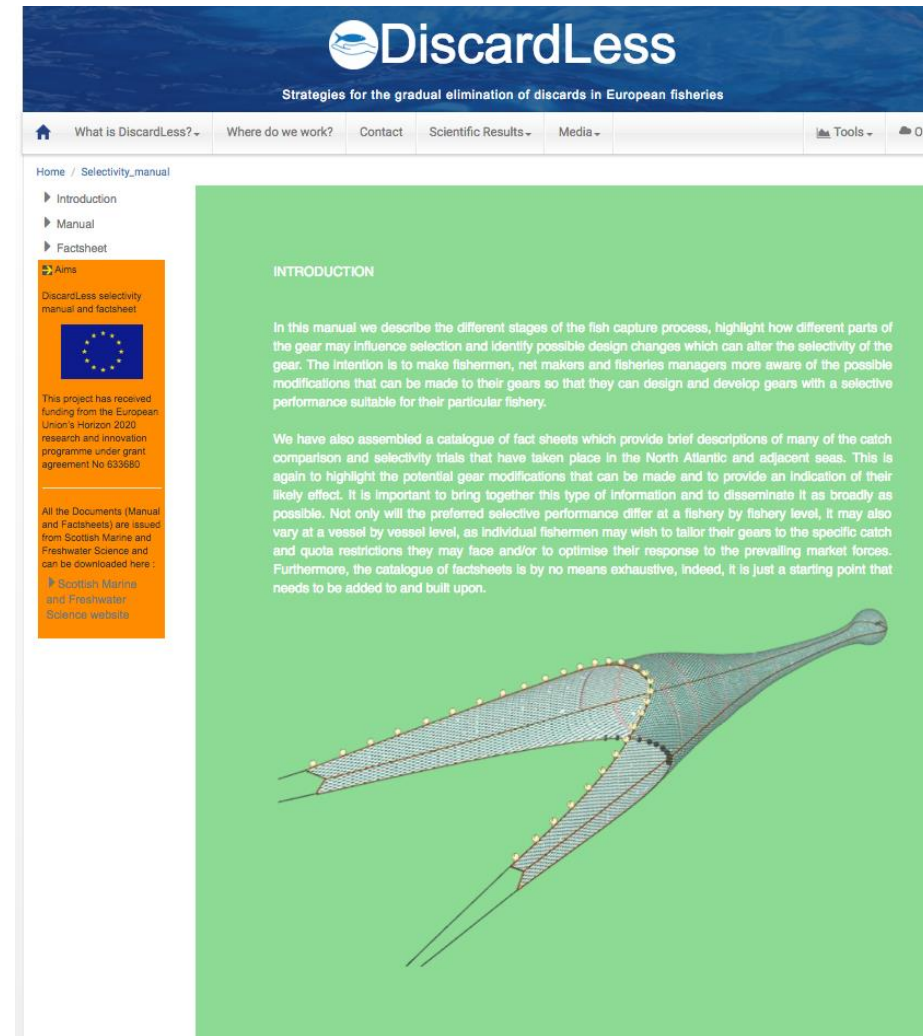
# Control Issues



- Logbooks problem
- Recording of unwanted catch, discards or slipping

# Some DiscardLess inputs

- Policy Brief 1 – Baltic & Pelagic
- West and East Med case study reports
- WP3 Selectivity manual and factsheets
- D4.1 Avoidance manuals
- WP5 non-EU discard bans.





# Conclusions

- Universal uncertainty!
- Negative perception
- LO unsuited to Med
- Communication critical
- Prominent MEDAC role
- NGO reservations



# Conclusions

Discard rates

Small fish problem Vs quotas problem

Economic costs

Research funding

Implementation timescale





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