

Case Study Report, Task 7.3

Synthesis and recommendations for Discard Mitigation Strategies by case study

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Case Study: Iceland

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1 What has been going on in this case study during the last 12 months?

1.1 Important changes in stock development, discard data and ecosystem

LO has been in effect in the Icelandic case study since 1977. The legislations, management, infrastructure, flexibility, enforcement, monitoring, control, surveillance and other factors have been gradually improved during that time. It is difficult to assess what impacts the LO alone has had on biology and ecosystem. The discards are however almost non-existent today and the stocks are in healthy condition.

1.2 Important changes in terms of fisheries and stakeholders perception

Fisheries and stakeholder perception of the LO is very positive and it is generally accepted by all stakeholders that discarding is unacceptable. Since the LO has been in effect for almost 40 years it is difficult to assess trends in profitability due to LO, but fisheries in Iceland are very profitable.

1.3 Important changes in management

Most stocks in Icelandic waters are now managed according to catch rules or harvest control rules and the TAC is distributed within an ITQ system.

2 The Year behind us: What has DiscardLess produced in this case study during the last 12 months?

2.1 Impact assessments

2.1.1 Ecosystem scale

Data on Icelandic case provided which was a part of D1.1

2.1.2 Fishery scale

Data sent to WP1 also supplied to WP2 which became a part of D2.1

2.2 Optimal use of unwanted catches

2.2.1 From deck to first sale

Iceland has been the leading area for producing Deliverable D5.1, although this deliverable does not include specific work for specific case study as the revision on current practices in the handling of unavoidable, unwanted catches has been performed in a global manner. D5.1 is a report on current practices in the handling of Unavoidable Unwanted Catches (UUCs) based on projects, on-going initiatives, and existing experiences.

Discard estimates in global and European fisheries have been presented, the most common methods of discarding and associated incentives have been reviewed, the landing obligation of the Common Fisheries Policies (CFP) as well as landing obligations in other countries have been accounted for, Monitoring, Controlling and Surveillance (MCS) alternatives have been discussed and a number of initiatives tempted to reduce bycatch and discards have been reviewed.

The document presents basic background information on the most important discard mitigation issues and the available tools for battling the discard problem. This will then serve as input to stakeholder interactions in later stages of the DiscardLess project, particularly when it comes to interacting with fishermen. This is a deliverable in work package 5 of the DiscardLess project, which focuses on how UUC can be handled on-board the fishing vessels, and it will trigger discussions on which past experiences can actually be adopted on-board the European fishing vessels.

2.2.2 Products to the value chain

Contribution to D6.1 with data on discards and utilisation of UUCs / full utilisation

2.3 Policy outreach

Contribution to the DiscardLess Atlas and contribution to the review of discard ban policies outside EU

2.4 Summary

Main outcomes are contribution to the Atlas and data given to WPs1, 2, 5 & 6. The contribution is mostly on lessons learned after 40 years of LO in the area. It also includes information on DMS in place in the fishery i.e. management, structural, technology, market and utilisation which was presented in D5.1. It also includes information presented in D6.1 on utilisation of UUCs and by-catches in the Icelandic fishery.

3 The Year ahead of us: What do we expect for the next year?

3.1 Impact assessments

Provide a model on the economic impacts of the LO in Iceland, which estimates the value of products processed from UUCs that would most likely have been discarded in a LO free fishery. The case study will also provide economic data in other form if requested.

3.2 Avoiding unwanted catches

Provide information on decision support systems used in the Icelandic fishery to assist with decision making on where and when to fish in order to minimise by-catches and catches of UUCs.

3.3 Optimal use of unwanted catches

Continued work

3.4 Policy outreach

Contribute to DMS toolbox with examples of lessons learned from 40 years' experience of LO.