Case Study Report, Task 7.3

Synthesis and suggestions for Discard Mitigation Strategies by case study

Year 2 : March 2016-February 2017

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, with full implementation for all commercial stocks since 1996. 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. The LO has been in effect for decades. The full implementation in 1996 was though controversial and not immediately accepted by fishermen or the industry as a whole. Stakeholder perception today is that discards are unacceptable and it is the responsibility of those entrusted to utilise the stocks not to discard anything. After this long time under a LO is difficult to assess trends in profitability due to LO, but fisheries in Iceland are very profitable and the LO does most certainly not have much effect.

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 u (2016-2017)s: What has DiscardLess produced in this case study during the last 12 months?

2.1 Impact assessments

2.1.1 ecosystem scale

No contribution in the last 12 months

2.1.2 Fishery scale

Economic "model" developed covering estimated discards in 2004-2015 if there was no discard ban and few other scenarios i.e. VS-catches, Full Implementation, LO with mitigating measures.

2.2 Avoiding unwanted catches: fishing strategies

Report on the application of decision support systems to mitigate discards in Icelandic fisheries prepared for the WP leader. The report details how information is gathered in the Icelandic fishery for the purpose of managing the fleet so that it can target the best quality and avoid UUC.

Participation at a WP4 workshop held Dublin September 28-29.

2.3 Optimal use of unwanted catches

2.3.1 From deck to first sale

The Icelandic CS was one of three CS focused on in D5.2 and contributed significantly to that report. The deliverable is a "*Report containing identification and recommendations on innovative, applicable and practical solutions for on-board handling of unavoidable unwanted catches*"[1] (UUC) where solutions used in the Icelandic fleet are presented, amongst others.

The Icelandic CS also contributes to D5.4 with information used for making drawings for two of the four reference fishing vessels.

The Icelandic CS has also contributed to ongoing work in T5.3 i.e. both in regards to full documentation of catches using conventional methods and genetic methods. Current setup in Icelandic fisheries and other potential solutions for the national fleet have been identified. The applicability of using real-time portable DNA tools for identification and quantification of UUC in the CS has also been addressed.

2.3.2 Products to the value chain

The Icelandic CS has contributed with major input to D6.2 and D6.3 with information and expertise. Valorisation alternatives have been identified and prioritised, technical, market and regulatory issues addressed, as well as socio-economic perspectives. The CS has supplied fact sheets and information that has been used to develop the valorisation selection tool.

2.4 Policy outreach

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

2.5 Summary

Main outcomes in M12-24 from the Icelandic case study are contribution to T2.4, D5.2, D5.4, D6.2 and D6.3. The contribution includes information 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 work presented in D5.2 on identified solutions for on-board handling and contribution to D5.4 which is due shortly. The Icelandic CS also contributes significantly to D6.2 and D6.3 that are due shortly and include identification and prioritisation of valorisation alternatives.

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[1] http://www.discardless.eu/media/results/DiscardLess_Deliverable_-_D5-2_22Sept2016.pdf

3 The Year ahead of us (2017-2018): What do we expect for the next year?

3.1 Impact assessments

Continue working on the economic model

3.2 Avoiding unwanted catches

Continue providing information on strategies applied in Iceland on how to avoid UUC. Contribution to D4.3 and D4.4.

3.3 Optimal use of unwanted catches

Completion of D5.4 and Continued work on T5.3 and T5.5.

3.4 Policy outreach

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