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Looking back: stories of EU regions between 2015 and 2018

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Session I: Landing Obligation: where are we now, what has changed,
and what are the main barriers?



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2016 focus: Baltic and pelagic fisheries



Baltic:

- Loss of Cod MSC
- Delayed start
- Uncertainty about regulations
- Frustration with adopting more selective gear
- Concerns of reduced observer coverage

Pelagic fisheries



- 4 discard plans detailing areas, species and exemptions
- Regional differences in LO implementation
- Mismatch between Pelagic AC and Regional MS Groups
- Accounting for unwanted catches at sea

LO in Mediterranean Fisheries (2017)



- Complex – no. of countries, vessels and ports, high species diversity
- LO applied from 2017 to 7 ‘species that define the fisheries’
- <MCRS human consumption market concern
- MedAC role in Discard Plan
- Perception that LO was designed for TAC fisheries

LO in demersal fisheries NWW, SWW, North Sea



- The major concern: Chokes!
- Choke Mitigation Tool
- Chokes expected after use of LO flexibility measures
- Quota distribution important
- New measures sought by ACs

Recent Developments



- Bycatch quotas & multi-annual reduction plans
- Management measures – quota balancing, selectivity and quota linkage
- Azores – longlines to handlines
- Some changes in behaviour early 2019

Cross-cutting observations



- Uncertainty
- Discard plan complexity
- Unwanted catch volumes & discard rates
- No choke doomsday
- Cooperation: test case for regionalisation
- Control challenges.

Food for thought



- Ambitious timeline?
- An accumulation of small changes
- Need to incentivise co-operative research, data provision and compliance.
- How to balance top-down and bottom-up?