



legitimate or not legitimate policy? The opinion of EU fishers

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Participation of civil society and citizen

- ensures the quality, relevance and effectiveness of EU policies and
- creates more confidence in the end of the results and to the institutions delivering policies? (European Governance White paper, 2001)

Successful policies are those implemented without conflicts.

LO implementation is depending on the opinion of fishers and others stakeholders
So gather this opinion is important.



Knowledge and opinion of fishers toward LO

“Never heard about LO because nobody informed us “ and “we didn’t have the opportunity to express our opinion about it” (EL fisher)

When the idea of a landing obligation, or discard ban (...) was first proposed by the Commission I, (...) thought the worst, that it could never work.” (IE fisher)

Do we miss the right arguments to convince fishers?

EU didn’t find the right words and arguments to explain such unjust decision” (FR manager)

“fishers cannot understand the reasons of such policy and reject LO (...). They don’t even want to discuss about it. Now it is too late to change this negative perception of EU and LO” (FR Manager)

Vessel owners' knowledge about LO, France and Greece

	France	Greece
Don't know at all	6	24
Have little knowledge	68	45
I know well	40	1
I am without opinion	26	0

Opinion of *French fishers* about LO by size of vessels

	Vessels >12m of length)	Vessels <12 m length
Very bad opinion	76	12
Bad opinion	18	4
Good	4	2
Very good	9	7
Without opinion	1	4

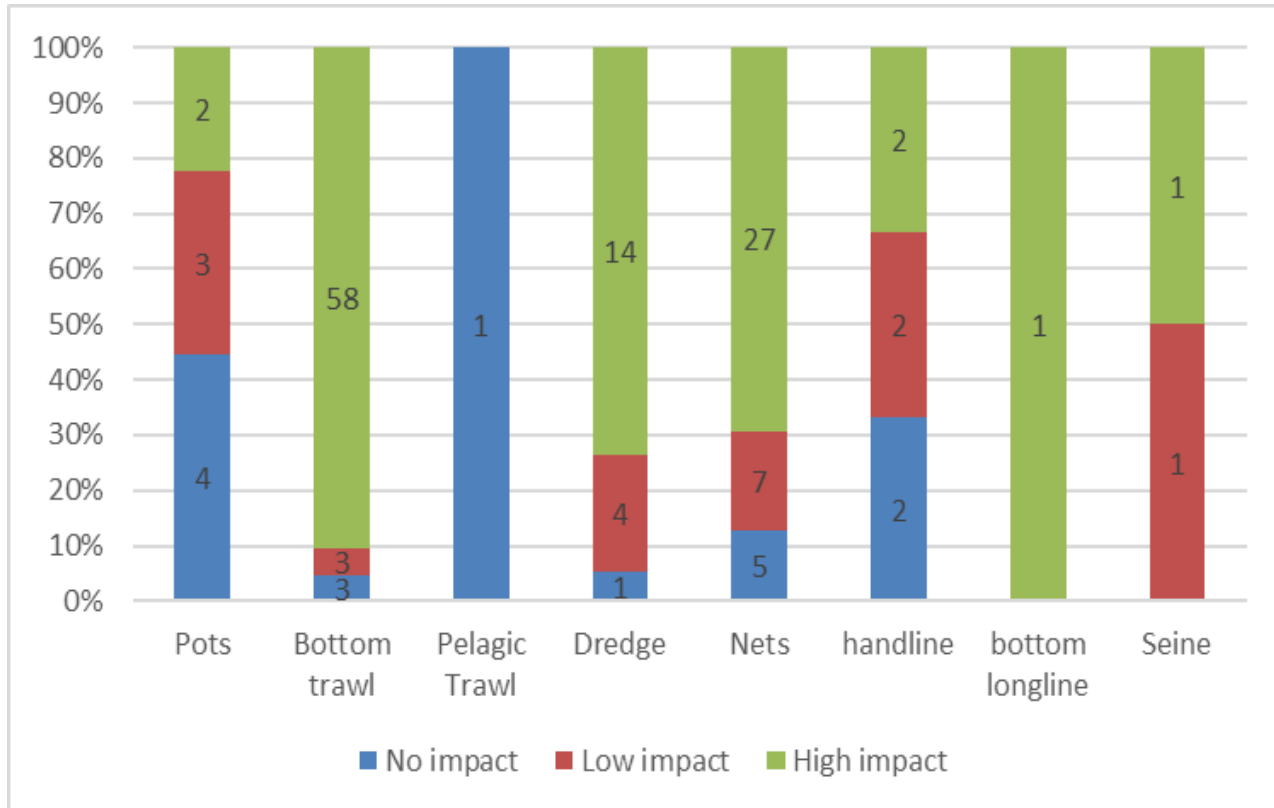
Economic impact by gear (number of vessels)

As it stands, the LO will produce a lot of problems on board. (IE fisher)

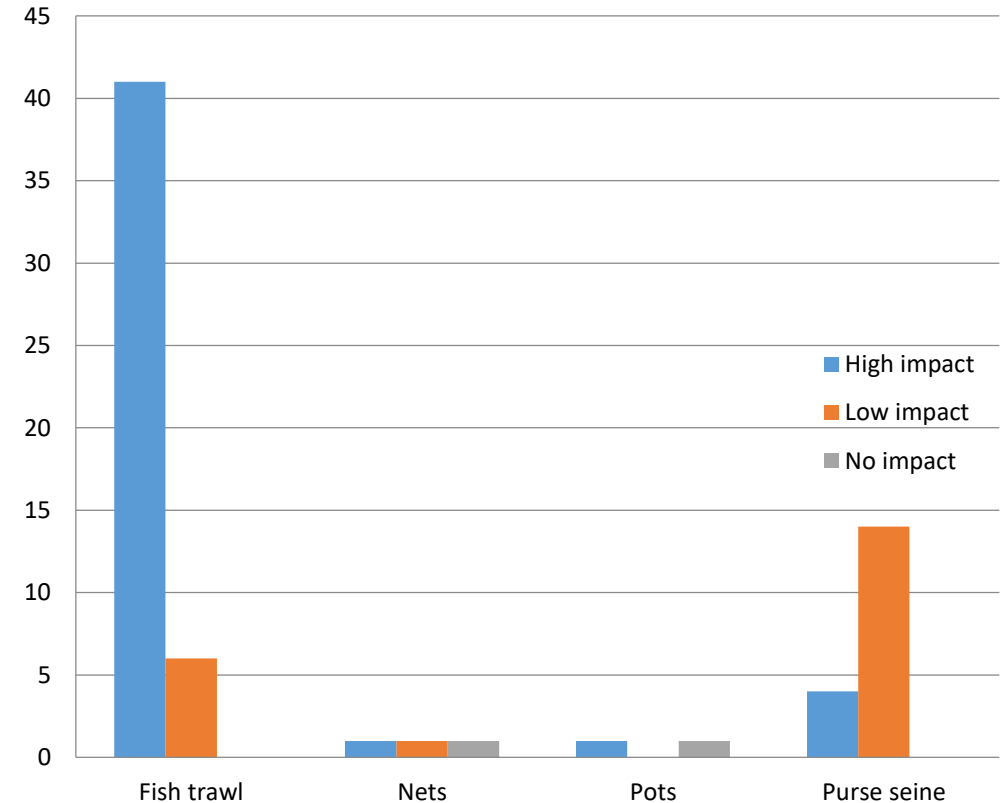
if you make a trawl and you have boarfish your hold is full and you go back to port (FR fisher)

And whom will pay for the extra cost (ice, boxes, auction fees, gears ??) etc.. (Fr, EL, ES..)

France



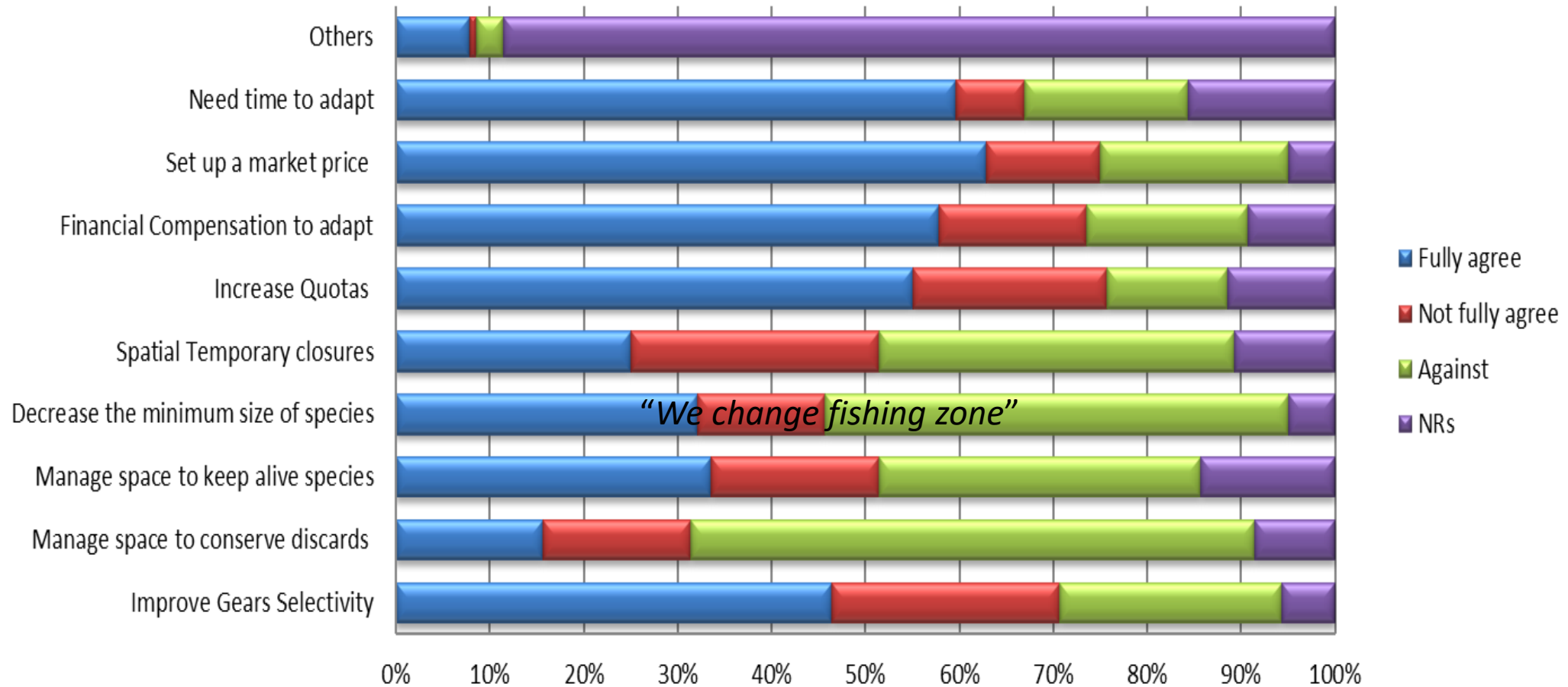
Greece



National survey in France 2018, DiscardLess

Solutions to adapt for LO

FRANCE



"We change fishing zone"

"When we are in a "bad area" (undersize fish), we leave as soon as we can".

«Always the fear that temporary closure becomes permanent »

"we prefer to sort at the bottom of the sea than on the deck of the ship"

Resistance until when?

"Better not to start register discards because, as soon they do it, they don't have the possibility to back out".

"I will never start registering discard until I get a fine"

- 2019: Few evolutions noticed**
- Fishers started to register discards in some areas (FR)
 - Fishers start landing discards (IE)

Spectrum of choke species can change practices?

Need of data to negotiate
"Without data on discards, it is difficult to convince decisions-makers about the impossibility to implement and apply LO"

Avoid seeing boats nailed to fishing harbors due to choke species

Fishers more open to test more selective gears

THANKS

