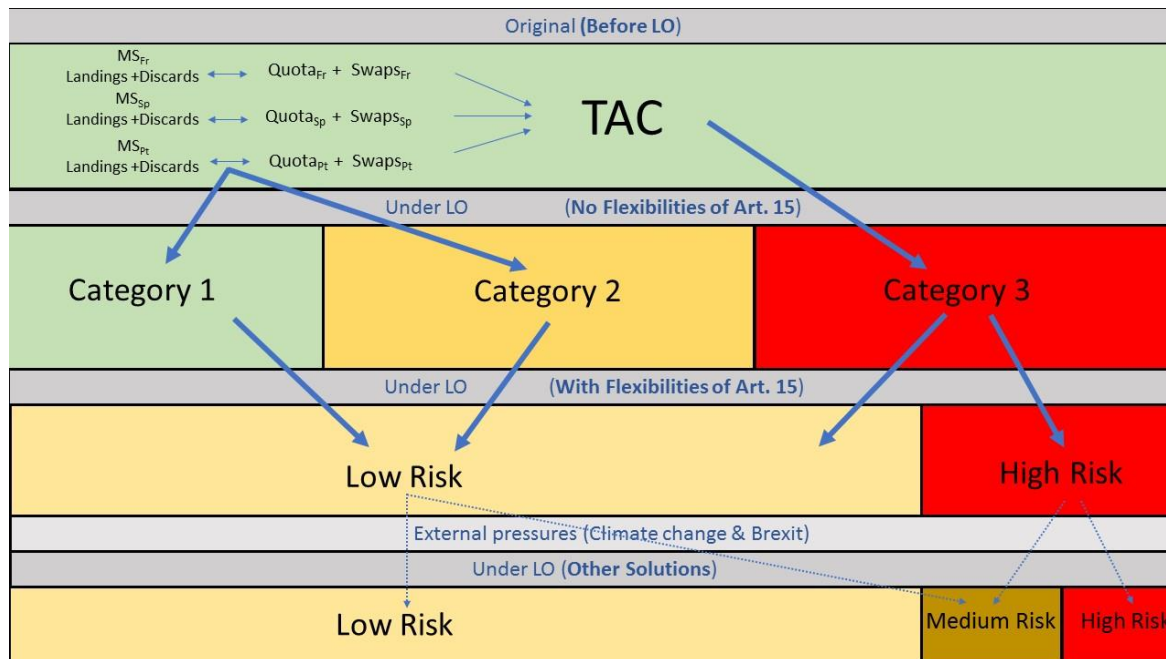


## South Western Waters

### Choke Mitigation Tool

Dr. Raúl Prellezo  
[rprellezo@azti.es](mailto:rprellezo@azti.es)



Flexibilities and exemptions	
CFP	ART 15
Swaps	Inter species quota flexibility
Inter species flexibility	De minimis
Banking and borrowing	High survivability
	Quota uplifts

Others	
Avoidance	TAC based
Selectivity improvements	“Others” quota
Closures (area; depth)	Remove TACs
Real time closures	Merge TACs
Information sharing	$F_{MSY}$ ranges

### Member State Level

MS	Adapted Quota	Landings	Discards	Choke
TAC	106721	71647	110252	<b>170%</b>
Belgium	11	28		<b>255%</b>
France	8749	2862	20333	<b>265%</b>
Spain	11426	1104	88931	<b>788%</b>
Portugal	1068	0	0	0%

### Stock Level

Excess	Full Top Up	LO	Exploitation Status
70%	60%	2015	Above $F_{MSY}$

### Fleet Level

Fleet	Type	De minimis	ISF	High Surv.
Pelagics	Both	4%	Yes	Slipping
Demersal	Bycatch	No	Yes	No

## Mitigation Tools

- 4% de minimis for purse seiners and pelagic pelagic trawls is in place.
- High survivability evidences exist only for purse seiner in slipping. LO exemption allowed.
- Special conditions apply. IQF allowed.
- Avoid hotspot areas through information sharing.
- Combined de minimis exemption with other small pelagics .
- Problems with the data, discards overestimated.

## Conclusions

According to the data used, France Spain are presenting discards levels 7 and 2 times higher than their adapted quotas. This effect is pushing up the overall catches making this stock to be considered a highly risky choke stock. Belgium also presents insufficient adapted quota, but this is due to zero original quota of this Member State. There is also a high discrepancy among ICES and STECF catch data, specially related to discards levels. The discard estimates (STECF estimates) used in this report for these Member States maybe over estimates. While in the STECF data total discard estimates for this stock have been around 110000 tonnes, ICES estimates show values around 4500 tonnes.

In 2018 a 4% de minimis for purse seiners and pelagic pelagic trawls is in place. However, de minimis has limited benefits as registered discards for France and Spain are high. Additionally, horse mackerel TAC regulation presents several special conditions to allow for IQF. However, horse mackerel acting as a donor stock could exacerbate the problems.

A combined de minimis exemption with other small pelagics could alleviate choke issues in demersal fisheries. Information sharing among these fleets could also help on avoiding hotspot areas.

Whiting

WHG/08

Bay of Biscay

2016

STECF (FDI)

High Risk

### Member State Level

MS	Adapted Quota	Landings	Discards	Choke
TAC	2540	2499	782	<b>129%</b>
Belgium	10	1		<b>10%</b>
France	1524	2452	773	<b>212%</b>
Spain	133	42	9	<b>38%</b>
Portugal	0	4	0	<b>&gt;100%</b>

### Stock Level

Excess	Full Top Up	LO	Exploitation Status
29%	24%	2019	Undefined

### Fleet Level

Fleet	Type	De minimis	ISF	High Surv.
Demersal	Both	-	-	Unlikely

## Mitigation Tools

Unknown

## Conclusions

Whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) is caught in mixed demersal fisheries primarily by France and Spain. Whiting has never been recorded in Spanish discards and is negligible in Portuguese discards. However, according to the data used, France is presenting high discards levels which represent around 50% of the adapted quotas.

Alfonsinos

ALF/3X14-

Deep Sea stock

2016

STECF (FDI)

High Risk

### Member State Level

MS	Adapted Quota	Landings	Discards	Choke
TAC	296	198	1415	545%
Belgium	-	-		-%
France	18	9	1409	7878%
Spain	27	146	5	558%
Portugal	213	43	0	20%

### Stock Level

Excess	Full Top Up	LO	Exploitation Status
445%	88%	2019	Undefined

### Fleet Level

Fleet	Type	De minimis	ISF	High Surv.
Demersal	Bycatch	-	N	Unlikely
Artisanal	Bycatch	-	N	Unlikely

## Avoidance

Unknown

## Conclusions

There are 12 deep-sea stocks relevant to SWW where the risk of choking fisheries is unclear. In recent years fisheries for deep sea species have declined and there are now only a few directed fisheries for these stocks. For most Member States they are caught only as a bycatch. In all these cases STECF data is incomplete or unreliable, the level of fishery is very low, or Member States do not catch their quota and traditionally swap it out.

Generally, for these stocks, discards, where reported, are low and the TACs tend to match the actual catches indicating a low choke risk. This is not to say that there are no choke issues, however, with the available data the only stock identified as high risk of causing choke problems is alfonsinos (ALF/3X14-). This choke issue is especially relevant for France where discards of this stock account for almost the 90% of the total catches of this stock by all Member States.

Megrim

LEZ/8ABDE

Bay of Biscay

2016

STECF (FDI)

Moderate

### Member State Level

MS	Adapted Quota	Landings	Discards	Choke
TAC	2540	2499	782	149%
Belgium	15	14	10	160%
France	1863	1476	391	100%
Spain	569	673	121	140%
Portugal	0	0	0	-

### Stock Level

Excess	Full Top Up	LO	Exploitation Status
49%	19%	2019	Above $F_{MSY}$

### Fleet Level

Fleet	Type	De minimis	ISF	High Surv.
Demersal	Both	-	Y	Unlikely

## Mitigation Tools

Special condition on this stock allowing the use of a 5 % of the quota of LEZ/07 in Divisions 8abde.

## Conclusions

Caught in a mixed demersal fishery catching anglerfish, hake and nephrops, both as a targeted species and as valuable bycatch. The two species are landed and recorded together in ports' statistics.

France and Spain are the two main Member States fishing megrim in ICES Divisions 8abd. The percentage of catches in ICES Divisions 8abd in relation to total stock (ICES subarea 7 and Divisions 8abd) has been around 18% in the year 2016.

If the total distribution of the stock is considered (ICES subarea 7 and Divisions 8abde) megrim is unlikely to be a choke species because in 2016 TAC was higher than catches. However, if only ICES Divisions 8abde are analysed, fishing TAC is lower than catches and it would be considered as a choke stock. On that sense there is a special condition on this stock allowing the use of a 5 % of the quota of LEZ/07 in Divisions 8abde, for France and Spain. This percentage is likely to be change to a 25% in 2018. This implies that the only Member State for which this stock can cause choke difficulties is Belgium.

Mackerel

MAC/2CX14

Widely distributed

2016

STECF (FDI)

Moderate

### Member State Level

MS	Adapted Quota	Landings	Discards	Choke
TAC	257587	227397	26346	<b>71%</b>
Belgium	45	44	3	<b>104%</b>
France	20730	16363	12836	<b>142%</b>
Spain	1314	1588	6680	<b>629%</b>
Portugal	0	0	0	-

### Stock Level

Excess	Full Top Up	LO	Exploitation Status
0%	10%	2015	Above $F_{MSY}$

### Fleet Level

Fleet	Type	De minimis	ISF	High Surv.
Pelagics	Both	4%	Yes	Slipping
Demersal	Bycatch		Yes	No

## Mitigation Tools

- 4% de minimis for purse seiners and pelagic pelagic trawls is in place.
- High survivability evidences exist only for purse seiner in slipping. LO exemption allowed.
- Avoid hotspot areas through information sharing.
- Combined de minimis exemption with other small pelagics .
- Problems with the data, discards overestimated.

## Conclusions

A fishery where France and Spain could potentially face choke issues coming from the bycatch of demersal fisheries. In these fisheries the existing de minimis has limited benefits as discards are high. Belgium can also face a choke problem due to zero quota (although a positive adapted quota).

In 2018 a 4% de minimis for purse seiners and pelagic trawls is in place. High survivability evidences exist only for purse seiner in slipping. Nevertheless, the bulk of discards comes from demersal fisheries. Overall, TAC seems enough to potentially solve choke issues, probably combined with a de minimis for non-directed fisheries.

Demersal fleets in the Bay of Biscay are currently avoiding areas of high abundance of this species. There is, likely, and informal mechanism for information sharing among them.



Pollack

POL/8ABDE

Bay of Biscay

2016

STECF (FDI)

Moderate

### Member State Level

MS	Adapted Quota	Landings	Discards	Choke
TAC	1482	1323	131	98%
Belgium	0	0	0	>100%
France	1230	1293	130	116%
Spain	10	5		50%
Portugal	0	0	0	-

### Stock Level

Excess	Full Top Up	LO	Exploitation Status
0%	9%	2019	Undefined

### Fleet Level

Fleet	Type	De minimis	ISF	High Surv.
		-	N	Unlikely

## Mitigation Tools

Unknown

## Conclusions

Category 2 using STECF data, pollack, (*Pollachius pollachius*) is mainly exploited by France and Spain, with minor contribution to landings from UK.

Most fleets did not report pollack discards. For Spanish netters discards are considered negligible and French netters discarded 11% of their catches in 2016. If reported discards are considered, TAC consumption is around 98%. Considering also that recreational catches may be considerable

Hake	HKE/8C3411	Iberian waters	2016	STECF (FDI)	Moderate
------	------------	----------------	------	-------------	----------

### Member State Level

MS	Adapted Quota	Landings	Discards	Choke
TAC	10674	8854	2460	<b>71%</b>
Belgium	0	0	0	-
France	656	191	2	<b>29%</b>
Spain	7829	6983	2182	<b>104%</b>
Portugal	3654	1680	276	54%

### Stock Level

Excess	Full Top Up	LO	Exploitation Status
6%	22%	2016	Above $F_{MSY}$

### Fleet Level

Fleet	Type	De minimis	ISF	High Surv.
Demersal	Target	6%	Yes	No

## Mitigation Tools

- A de minimis exemption for hake, up to a maximum of 6 % in 2018
- Studies on selectivity improvements in place, however, still problems to define a trawl gear in where catchability of other species is not reduced.

## Conclusions

Currently, a de minimis exemption for hake, up to a maximum of 6 % in 2018 of the total annual catches of this species by trawlers targeting this species is in place. However, this de minimis is to be revised through new evidences confirming or not that that selectivity is very difficult to achieve for the métiers involved.

### Member State Level

MS	Adapted Quota	Landings	Discards	Choke
TAC	3420	1396	-	41%
Belgium	7	2	-	29%
France	1298	480	-	37%
Spain	925	438	-	47%
Portugal	1051	433	-	41%

### Stock Level

Excess	Full Top Up	LO	Exploitation Status
0%	-	2019	Undefined

### Fleet Level

Fleet	Type	De minimis	ISF	High Surv.
	Bycatch	6%	Yes	likely

## Mitigation Tools

- High survivability of discards is likely.

## Conclusions

Category 2 using ICES data. Not evaluated given the discrepancies among ICES and STECF data. There are not discards data. Low TACs can create problems. In SWW, studies on the survivability of these species after discarding are on the way. Not concise results on this side. Still a moderate risk stock of being choke

Area	Species	Stock	Exploitation Status	Initial Choke Category	Excess	Full Top Up	LO Since	High Surv.	De Minimis	IQF	Evidences Distribut. Shift	Risk in SWW
Bay of Biscay	Anglerfishes	ANF/8ABDE	Undefined	3	2%	10%	2017	N	N	Y	N	Low
	Megrims	LEZ/8ABDE	Above FMSY	3	49%	19%	2019	Unlikely	-	Y	N	Moderate
	N. Lobster	NEP/8ABDE	Below FMSY	3	52%	30%	2016	Y	N	N	N	Low
	Common Sole	SOL/8AB	Above FMSY	3	3%	4%	2016	N	Y	N	N	Low
	Anchovy	ANE/08	Above BMGT	3	9%	44%	2015	PSS	Y	N	Y	Moderate
	Whiting	WHG/08	Undefined	3	29%	24%	2019	Unlikely	-	N	Y	High
	Skates & Rays	SRX/89-C.	Undefined	2	0%	0%	2019	Likely	-	N	N	Moderate
	Pollack	POL/8ABDE	Undefined	2	0%	9%	2019	Unlikely	-	N	N	Moderate
Iberian waters	Anchovy	ANE/9/3411	Undefined	3	28%	0%	2015	PSS	Y	N	Y	Moderate
	B. Whiting	WHB/8C3411	Above FMSY	2	0%	12%	2017	N	IPT	Y	Y	Low
	Megrims	LEZ/8C3411	Above FMSY	3	1%	29%	2019	N	-	Y	N	Moderate
	Hake	HKE/8C3411	Above FMSY	3	6%	22%	2016	N	Y	Y	Y	Moderate
	Sole	SOO/8CDE34	Undefined	2	0%	0%	2016	N	Y	N	N	Low
Tuna	Albacore	ALB/AN05N	Sustainable	2	0%	1%	2015	N	Y	N	Y	Low
	B. Marlin	BUM/ATLANT	Overfished	2	0%	0%	2015	N	N	N	N	Low
	W. Marlin	WHM/ATLANT	Overfished	2	0%	0%	2015	N	N	N	N	Low
Widely distributed	B. Whiting	WHB/1X14	Above FMSY	3	5%	4%	2017	N	N	Y	Y	Low
	Mackerel	MAC/2CX14	Above FMSY	2	0%	10%	2015	PSS	Y	Y	Y	Moderate
	H. Mackerel	JAX/2A-14	Above FMSY	3	70%	60%	2015	PSS	Y	N	N	High
	Boarfish	BOR/678	Undefined	2	0%	20%	2019	Unlikely	-	N	N	Moderate
	Cod	COD/7XAD34	Above FMSY	3	10%	20%	2016	N	N	N	Y	Low
	Haddock	HAD/7X7A34	Above FMSY	3	119%	54%	2016	N	N	Y	Y	Low
	Saithe	POK/7/3411	Undefined	2	0%	13%	2016	N	N	N	N	Low
Deep	Alfonsinos	ALF/3X14	Undefined	3	445%	88%	2019	Unlikely	-	N	N	High



Txatxarramendi ugarte z/g  
48395 Sukarrieta, Bizkaia

Herrera Kaia. Portualdea z/g  
20110 Pasaia, Gipuzkoa

Astondo Bidea, Edificio 609  
Parque Tecnológico de Bizkaia  
48160 Derio, Bizkaia