



The untrawled truth:

Why EU fisheries (control) policy should strengthen discard monitoring, control and reporting within an implemented landing obligation.

Technical annex

Data Availability Statement

Landings and discards information by fleets within the EU are collected through the Data Collection Framework (DCF, Regulation (EU) 2017/1004) and are submitted to the STECF FDI following an annual data call to MS (<https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/data-calls>). Data are reported by species and quarter and are publicly available at <https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dd/fdi> (STECF, 2020).

Data Overview

In 2019, nearly 450,000 entries were reported, consisting of 32 gear types across 23 EU MS. However, 114,020 of these entries were reported as confidential, with no associated landings or discards data. Therefore, this study focuses on the remaining 333,167 data entries that fall into two categories: landings with known discards, and landings where discards is not known. As stated by STECF (European Commission, 2020a), which provided the data set used for this analysis, the contained discard data does not support the level of disaggregation requested by the data call and hence the quality of discard estimates cannot be assured, as they may be both uncertain as well as biased.

As discards are reported per species, data entries can often contain zero landings (as the species was not landed to be sold) but non-zero discards. Since estimates of discards were made using the ratio of discards per landings, data per fleet segment (as defined below) was aggregated from individual species to target assemblage resolution, reducing incidence of undefined ratios. At this level of resolution, the ratios capture the rate of total discards per landings for a fleet segment targeting a given assemblage.

Individual fleet segments were determined by the following variables: country name, vessel length, gear type, region (North Atlantic, Mediterranean, Outer Fisheries Regions), and target assemblage (broad collection of species often targeted by similar gear, for example demersal fishes or small pelagic fish). Discards totals per fleet segment were determined for each quarter (1-4) of the year.

Reported discards for fleet segments fell into three categories: 1) complete coverage, 2) partial coverage, and 3) no reported discards. Partial coverage indicates that some portion of a fleet's landings had known discards while another portion did not.



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