The Landings Obligation
Challenges and Solutions for Small Scale Fishers

Jeremy Percy – Executive Director
Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE)

Challenges:

- Small scale – the forgotten Fleet
- All fisheries issues are connected
- The majority of support for and measures to reduce discards have been introduced in large-scale fisheries
- Quota v Science v Reality = choke species

- At Sea:
  - Confusion over requirements – keep, discard, over quota / undersize
  - Vessel size
  - Separate storage requirement – danger of cross contamination
  - Carriage of ice
  - Carriage of boxes
  - Additional workload
  - Safety and stability
  - Record keeping
  - TIME

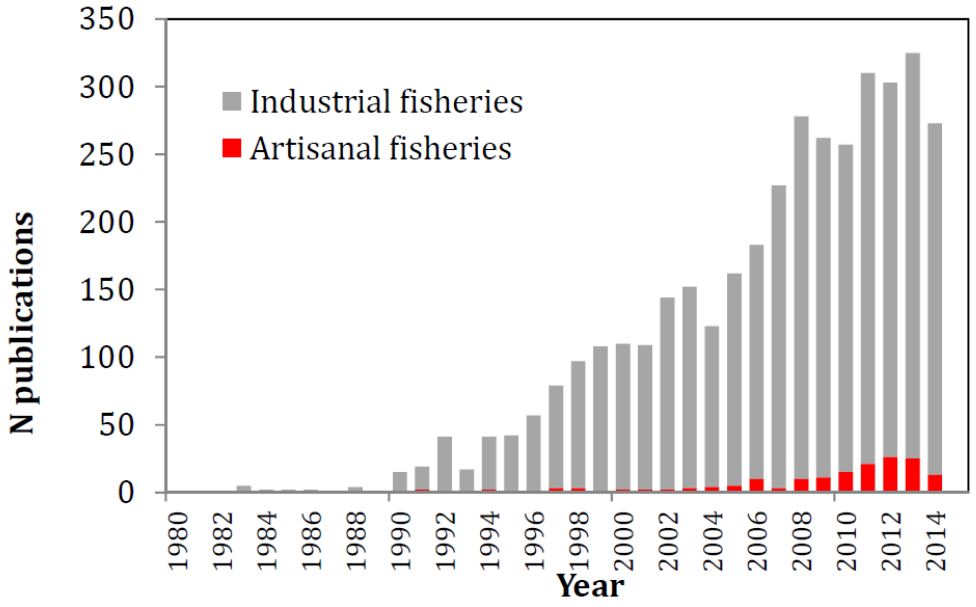
Challenges:

- <u>On Land:</u>
  - Monitoring and enforcement
  - Boxes
  - Ice
  - Transport
  - Landing places
  - Reception facilities
  - TIME
- <u>Compliance?:</u>
  - Only moves discards from sea to shore
  - Increased carbon footprint
  - Fresh fish to landfill
  - Lack of discard data
  - Lack of timely EMFF support for anything
  - North / South divide
  - Just a few fish can make the difference for SSCF. Compliance or bankruptcy?

Consequence of oversight: Discarding and SSCF

- Implementing the landing obligation illustrates the consequence of SSCF oversight
- 3,924 scientific papers have been published on discards, of which 3,760 are related to industrial fisheries and only 164 papers focused on SSCF
- Just because there is less discarding in SSCF ***does not*** mean that SSCF are impacted less by the landing obligation
- Due to many issues SSCF are likely to be impacted more

Figure 2. Global number of publications related to discards for industrial and artisanal fisheries (1950-2014)



Villasante et al – Implications of the zero discard target for small scale fisheries

Solutions?

- Plenty of Reports
- One size doesn't fit all – Broad brush simply will not work
- A soft start and more information and guidance
- Face up to the reality of impacts
- A differentiated approach within the CFP
- Practical rather than academic studies
- Cost effective technology
- Big challenge – Big solutions – the joined up approach