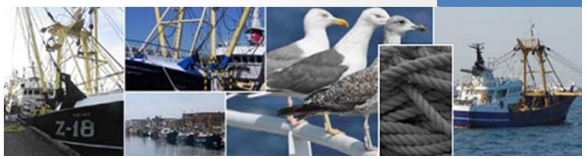
Choke Species & Zero TAC Species

DG MARE Seminar on the Landing Obligation
Brussels – 24 February 2016

Reder
Emiel Br



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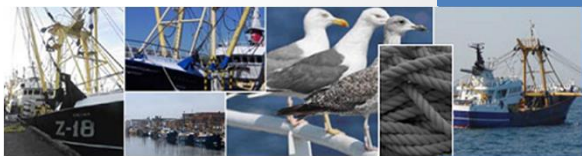
ÅBelgian PO & Fishing Vessel Owner Federation

ÅRepresented in

European Association of Fish Producers Organisations
EAPO

NSAC

Conseil Consultatif pour les Eaux Occidentales Septentrionales
North Western Waters Advisory Council
Consejo Consultivo para las Aguas Noroccidentales



Choke Species

Species subject to a landing obligation

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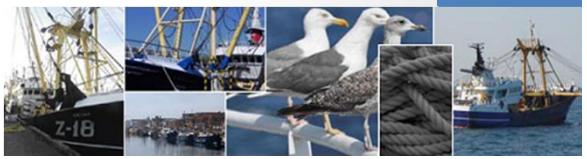
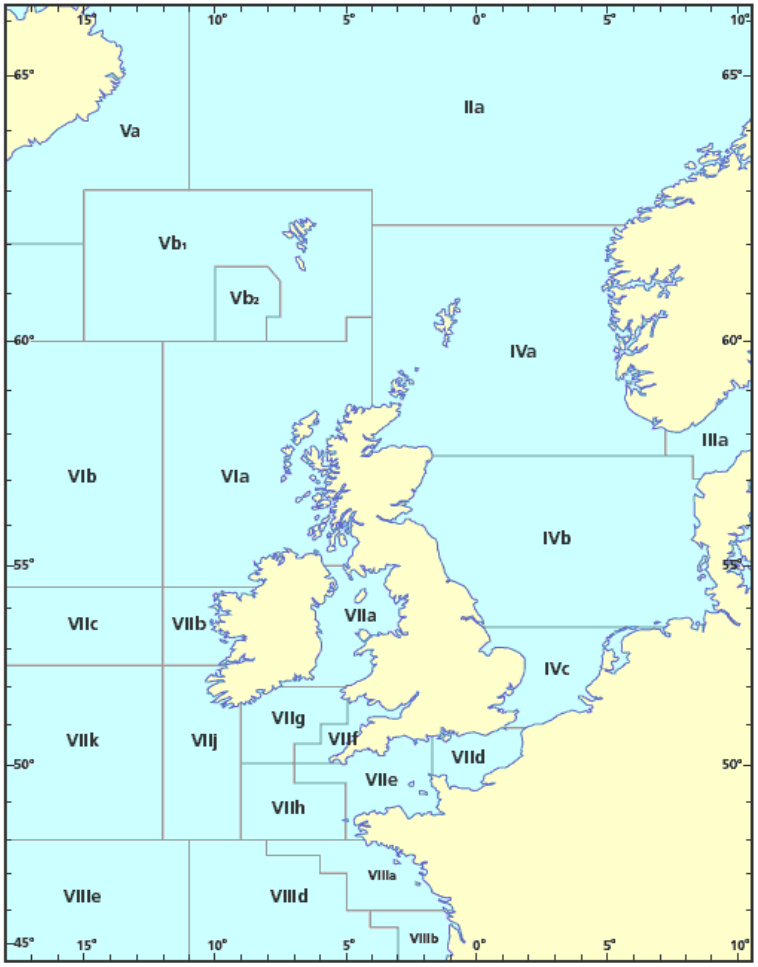
Species for which no quota is available

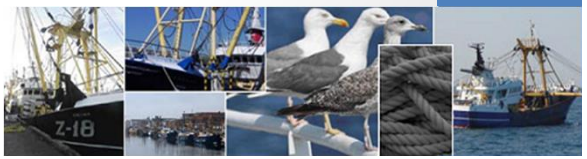
By vessel, metier/gear type, fleet segment, member state, EU (includes zero TAC species)



Chokes for Belgian fleet

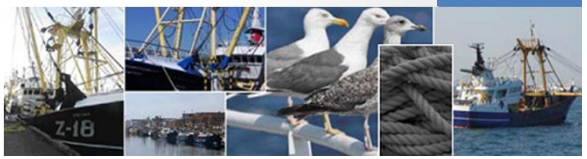
- 67 vessels
- Majority working on different fishing grounds over different periods of a calendar year.
- Approx 70 TACs IIIa – VIIIb = approx 70 risks of choke species by 2019, if Landing Obligation not properly managed.





Views on Choke Species in the European fisheries

- For many fisheries the Landing Obligation is operationally impossible without mitigation measures.
- Many fishing vessel owners and crews consider the Landing Obligation as unachievable and lose interest to invest and/or work in fisheries.
- Choke species come in addition to these operational and motivational issues of the Landing Obligation.
- Issues with choke species need to be resolved to make the CFP work.

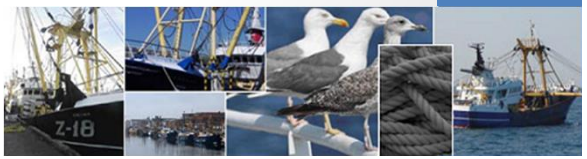


How to resolve Choke Species Issues

ÅContinue work on avoidance & minimisation of unwanted catches => recognition needed for fisheries initiatives. (Gear, real-time or periodic area avoidance, …)

If this one does not entirely resolve the choke issues:

ÅApplication of the survival exemption. Landing everything means unnecessary actual increase of fishing mortality. Obtain scientific evidence whilst survival exemption is applied.



How to resolve Choke Species Issues

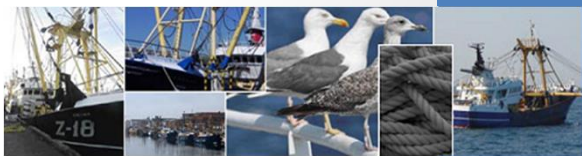
ÅTechnical Measures and Survival trials in many Member States => Collate & analyse for generalized application.

If the above does not entirely resolve the choke issues:

ÅDe-minimis exemption: make it work for all species for which quota are exhausted.

ÅAdjustment to TACs & Quota: MS should assign quota uplift where it is needed.

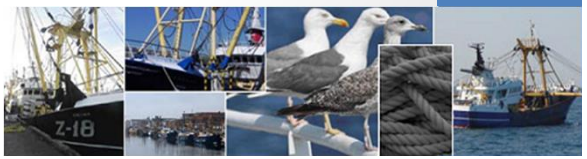
ÅInterspecies flexibilities: use of this tool under the existing rules is difficult to assess.



How to resolve Choke Species Issues

If not resolved by all the above the Choke Species Issues will have to be addressed by reviewing existing regulations:

- New grouping of TACs (e.g. Norway Others).
- For some species it might not be necessary to keep catch limits in place (less TACs).
- Always allow fisheries to continue as long as quota available for target species.
- Zero TAC => Treat as prohibited species.
- Review art. 15 of the CFP.



Thank you for your attention!

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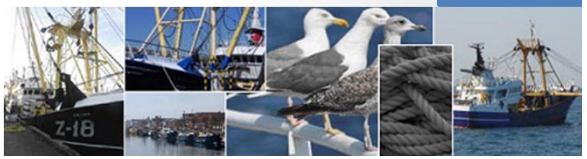
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