



The landing obligation and discards survivability

How to assess and improve discards survival?

Tuesday, 26 June 2018

13:45-15:30

ASP 1E3

European Parliament, Brussels

Chaired by:

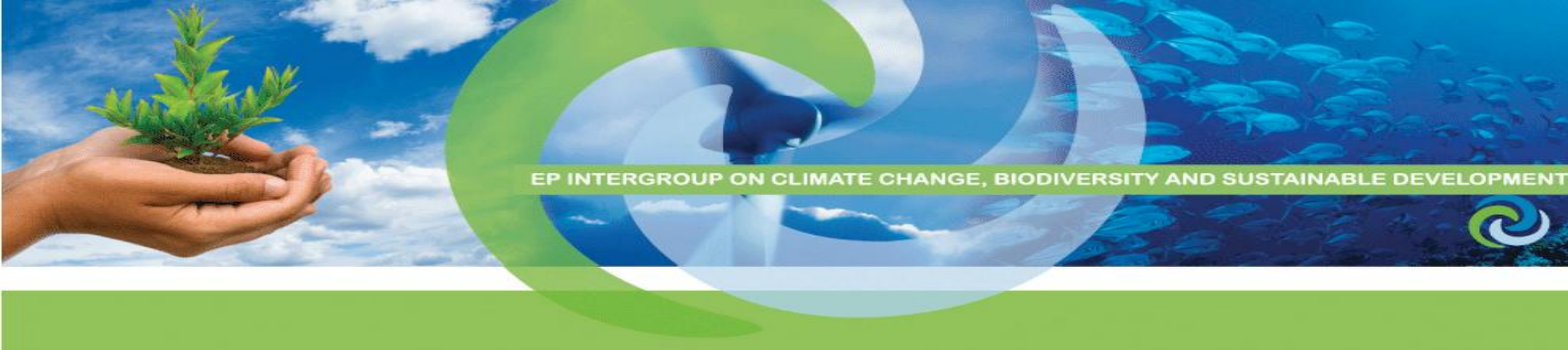
Ricardo Serrão Santos MEP

Chair of the “*Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services*” Working Group
of the EP Intergroup on “*Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Sustainable Development*”

The EU’s landing obligation (discard ban) is a major measure of the latest reform of the Common Fisheries Policy for EU fisheries. It aims to reduce unwanted catches in EU fisheries, by incentivising improved selectivity and restoring fish stocks to levels that can sustain the maximum production over time without harming the biodiversity and the capacity of future generations to obtain fish. However, banning discards inevitably induces diverse short- and long-term ecological, economic and social impacts, which may determine whether the landings obligation’s objectives will be achieved.

Since 2015, the landing obligation is being implemented on a gradual basis. Each fishery has its own specificities and differences which makes the implementation of the landing obligation a major challenge for fisheries management. Species for which scientific evidence demonstrates high survival rates are eligible for an exemption to the landing obligation.

At this event, recent research results from a project funded through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) on discards survival of flatfish and rays in pulse trawling will be presented. Policy-makers and stakeholders will gather to discuss issues such as measuring discards survival, improving discards survival, and the improvements in selectivity based on both technical development and other measures, with a focus on fishing gear.



DRAFT AGENDA

- 13:30-13:45** Registration and networking coffee
- 13:45-13:55** Welcome and introduction by **Ricardo Serrão Santos MEP**
- 13:55-14:15** Discards survival probabilities of flatfish and rays in North Sea pulse-trawl fisheries
Edward Schram, Wageningen Marine Research
- 14:15-14:25** Supporting evidence on a high survivability of blackspot seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) captured by bottom hook and line in Central North Atlantic Waters (ICES sub-area X)
Luis Rodrigues, Regional Director Fisheries, Government of the Azores
- 14:25-14:35** **Evangelia Georgitsi, DG MARE, CFP and Structural Support Policy Development and Coordination Unit, European Commission**
- 14:35-14:45** What is 'high survival'?
Michael Andersen, Danish Fishermen Producer Organisation
- 14:45-14:55** **Sebastian Uhlmann, Chair of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Working Group on Methods for Estimating Discard Survival**
- 14:55-15:05** Ecology and survivability
Seas at Risk, Dr Monica Verbeek Executive director
- 15:05-15:25** Questions and discussion with the audience
- 15:25-15:30** Concluding remarks by the Chair