

# Technical Measures in the Atlantic and North Sea

## Working with stakeholders towards a meaningful revision\*

**Nathalie Steins\***



\* Report by M. Kraan, R. Verkempynck & N.A. Steins

# Presentation outline

- 1. Technical measures**
- 2. Approach Atl. & North Sea study**
- 3. General findings**
- 4. Case study examples**
- 5. Conclusions**

# TM regulate when, where & how to fish

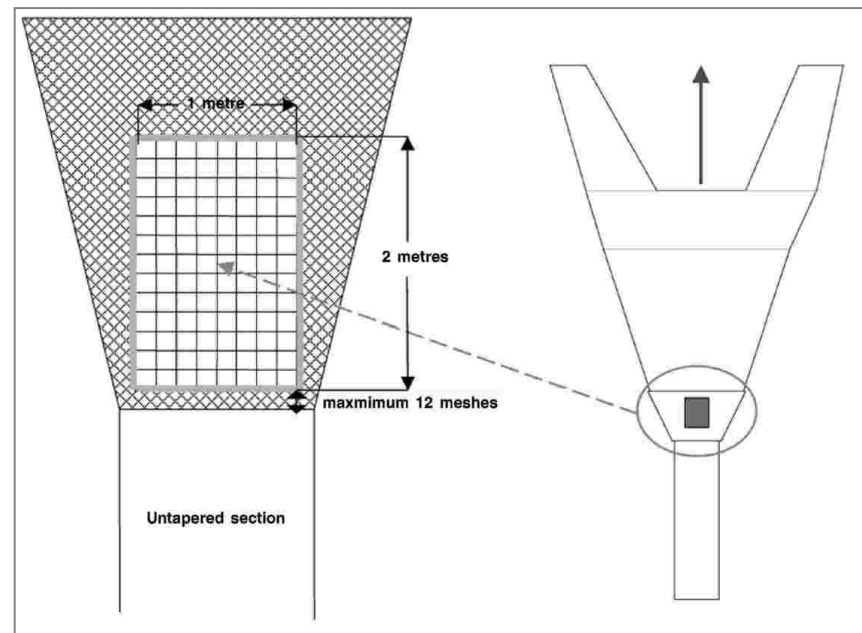
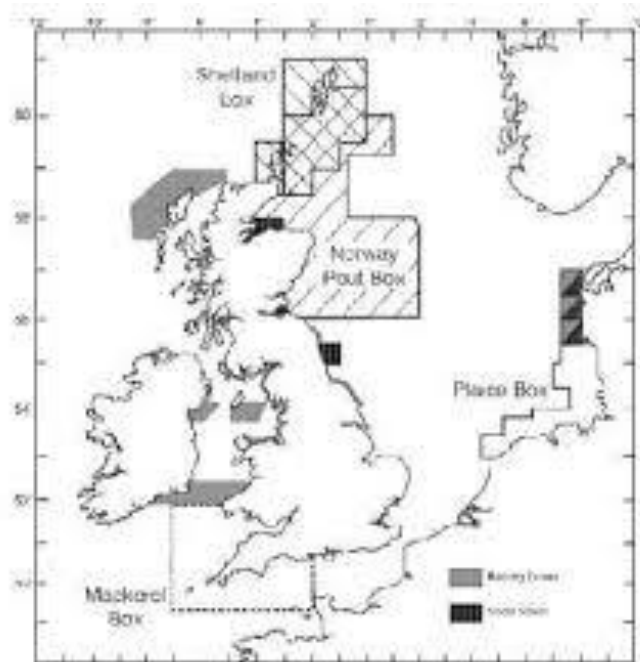


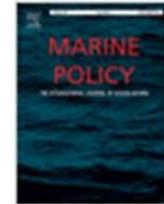
Image sources: [cefas.co.uk](http://cefas.co.uk); EU Reg. 850/98

# Exponential growth in TM since '80s



## Marine Policy

Volume 46, May 2014, Pages 101–104



Short Communication

**Exponential growth in the number of words used for the European Common Fisheries Policy (CFP): Does better management require more text?**

M.A. Pastoors 



..or more regulations?

# Approach study TM in Atl. & North Sea

## Desk study

### 2 case studies

- Focus: rules that should or could be removed because they contradict landing obligation
- Interviews with fishermen, policy makers and scientists
- Table clustering of 850/98 articles and joint stakeholder assessment and consensus-building

### Limitations:

- Focus on Dutch demersal fleet
- But many articles/rules relevant for other fisheries

# General findings TM Atl. & North Sea (1)

## **Gear structure (avoid unwanted catch):**

- Mesh size combined with catch composition rules
- Restrictive and may induce discarding

## **Minimum landing sizes (MLS):**

- Closely related to gear structure TM
- For some species: mismatch MLS vs. maturity indicators
- More discarding if MLS changed without adjusting gear selectivity

# General findings TM Atl. & North Sea (2)

## Time and area closures:

- Performance difficult to quantify
- Rationale to maintain seems often more 'political'

## Ecosystem measures:

- Focus TM on fishery conservation with some links to ecosystem

# General findings TM Atl. & North Sea (3)

## In general:

- Complex, difficult to understand
- Compliance & enforcement issues
- Contradict some objectives new CFP
- Wide stakeholder support for fundamental reform



# Dutch case studies (1)

## General findings:

- Reg. 98/850: 82 out of 87 articles relate to Dutch demersal fisheries covering 12 topics
- All articles referring to catches “retain(ed) on board” should be changed in view of landing obligation
- Joint assessment of rules: general consensus fishermen and policy-makers on rules that should be revised or removed

## Dutch case studies (2)

### Consensus on revision / removal in view of landing obligation:

- Revision of 7 specific articles related to catches “retain(ed) on board”
- (Some) revision of 14 articles on “catch composition”
- Of 13 articles related to “gear structure” remove 3 and potential removal or revision for 10
- Of 2 articles related to “area closures”, 1 should be considered for removal and 1 may be obsolete
- Articles on scientific research should be maintained

# Dutch case studies: some examples\* (1)

## Rules contributing to discarding:

- One net rule: forces choice to go for small mesh size target fishery over large mesh size target fishery
- Days-at-sea for TR >120mm: perverse incentive to use smaller mesh
- Percentage catch composition: rules per 24 hours instead of covering whole trip leading to (unnecessary) discarding

\* 3 examples selected that are also relevant for other North Sea fisheries



# Revision of the TM

**A ‘spring cleaning’ of the TM is not enough,  
an overall change in European fisheries  
governance is needed.**

# Meaningful change = governance change

- From centre to regional based management
- Greater role for stakeholders: social context of compliance
- Joint responsibility: fact finding, problem solution, monitoring and evaluation
- Focus on results-based management: contextual rules
- Adaptive management strategy: “theoretical exercise” vs. what happens in practice
- Dutch case studies as example of inclusive approach

# Stakeholder-based, contextual approach to TM revision

**Time is short and sense of urgency is high, but outcomes that can count on stakeholder support and fit everyday reality of the fisheries are best investment in responsible management of our fisheries and marine ecosystem resource.**