

Agenda Item 5.8: Fisheries statistics

Data on fishing effort submitted by Belgium

Submitted by: Belgium



ASCOBANS

NOTE:
**IN THE INTERESTS OF ECONOMY, DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED TO BRING
THEIR OWN COPIES OF THESE DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING**

Fisheries statistics from Belgium

J. Haelters

Belgium has the smallest fishing fleet of all North Sea states (1% of landings from North Sea, Kattegat, Skagerrak and Channel).

1. Bottom set gill nets

Type of fishery:	Bottom set gill nets
Target species:	Sole, plaice, turbot, cod,...
Reporting period:	1999
Fishing season:	Year round, target species dependent on season
Type of statistic:	Landing
Fishing area:	IVc, VIId
Number of vessels:	2 vessels (a third, larger vessel is under construction, and will start fishing in 2000).
Total length of gear:	12 kms
Catch:	See landings.
Landings:	Included in the statistics of the total fleet (1998).
By-catch:	Relatively small bycatch of non-target species (both commercial and non commercial) and undersized target species. Very limited bycatch of benthic invertebrates. No bycatch of marine mammals was reported by these fishermen (yet). Bycatch of birds: a very small bycatch of gannet was reported, and the bycatch of divers was observed.
Discards:	See bycatch.

2. Trawling

Type of fishery:	Beam- and otter trawl for demersal fish and shrimp (pelagic trawling less than 1 % of catches)
Target species:	Demersal fish species (sole, plaice, cod,...), shrimp (<i>Crangon crangon</i>), Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>),...
Reporting period:	1998

Fishing season:	Year round (shrimp especially in late summer, autumn)
Type of statistic:	Landing
Fishing area:	Data include bottom set gill net fishery: VIb (10.600 tons or 39%), VIc (6.695 tons or 25%), VIIf,g (3.475 tons or 13%) VIId (2.767 tons or 10%), VIIa (2.118 tons or 8%).
Number of vessels:	146. Depending on the season, the ships can be fitted with different nets (resulting in double counting): beamtrawl for demersal fish: 133, otter trawl for demersal fish: 48, beamtrawl for shrimp: 30, lobstertrawl: 15.
Total length of gear:	-
Catch:	See landings.
Landings:	Data include bottom set gill net fishery. Total: 27.176 tons; plaice:7.024 tons , cod: 5.841 tons, sole: 3.906 tons, brill + turbot + dab + lemon sole: 2.750 tons, ray: 1.173 tons,...
By-catch:	In comparison to bottom set gill net fishery, a very high bycatch of non target species: benthic invertebrates, undersized target and non target fish, non-commercial fish, protected fish (no quota); current and previous studies, e.g.: Lindeboom, H.J. & S.J. de Groot (Eds.), 1998. IMPACT II: The effects of different types of fisheries on the North Sea and Irish Sea benthic ecosystems. IJmuiden, NIOZ-rapport 1998-1. No bycatch of marine mammals was reported in 1998. In previous years bycatch of white-beaked dolphins occurred: 1 in 1997 (otter trawl) and 2 in 1993 (pelagic trawl).
Discards:	See by-catch.

3. Recreational fisheries

Recreational fishery: use of rod and line (from the beach and from small vessels) and set nets of different types (from the beach)

From the beach, especially in spring and autumn, a large number of nets of different types are set during low tide. The main target species are sole (spring) and cod (autumn). Bycatch of harbour porpoise (at least 3 during the last 10 years), common seal and diving birds has been reported from bottom set gill nets ('tremail' and other types).

It is not allowed to use bottom set gill nets at sea in recreational fisheries. Sometimes illegally set nets are confiscated, especially in the shallow western part of the territorial sea.

Fisheries data from:

Welvaert, M., 1998. De Belgische zeevisserij: aanvoer en besomming 1998. Rapport Dienst Zeevisserij, Ministerie van Middenstand en Landbouw, 198 p.