

## Collaboration agreed between Operators

**Lyon, 28-29<sup>th</sup> October, 2008**

### Introduction

Below is a summary of the collaboration that was discussed and agreed between representatives of 16 research organisations (and one enforcement agency – SFPA). It was agreed that the following general collaborative actions will take place:

- MariFish secretariat will maintain records of contact details of the participating organisations and provide contact details on request.
- A summary of relevant national research projects will be available on the public MariFish website at [www.marifish.org/WP7](http://www.marifish.org/WP7) (currently under construction).
- Every 6 months the summary of relevant national research projects will be circulated via email to participating organisation; the updated document will be uploaded to the MariFish website one month later.

In addition, the following specific actions were agreed at the meeting; more collaboration may arise as a natural result of the increased communication between the participants. The table below provides a summary of actions, participants and leaders.

The leaders are highlighted in yellow with a bold cross.

N o	Collaborative actions	Cefas	Sea	BE	DK	FR	GE	GR	IC	BIM	MI	SFPA	NO	PO	PT	SC	ES	SE	T
1	Data compatibility	X		X	X	X		X	X		<b>X</b>		X		X	X		X	1 1
2	Camera systems	<b>X</b>	X		X			X		X							X		6
3	Collaborate on gear trials - cod reduction	X	X			X										X			4
4	Electro-shrimp trawl	X	X	<b>X</b>	X		X												5
5	Area VII Nephrops report/toolkit		x							<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	X							3
6	T90			X		X	<b>X</b>						X	<b>X</b>					5
7	Discard utilisation, logbooks	X	X						<b>X</b>	X									5
8	Purse seine				X								<b>X</b>					X	3
9	Technical solutions to 15%		X	X	X	X		X		<b>X</b>							X		7
10	Video Footage		<b>X</b>							X						X			3
		5	6	4	5	4	2	3	2	4	2	1	3	1	1	2	2	2	

### 1. Data compatibility (led by MI, Ireland)

It was recognised by all present that there were significant differences in the method used to collect data on discards, including the baseline data. For this reason it was not yet possible to construct a discard atlas.

*Collaborative action*

MI (IE) will email UK/Cefas, BE, DK, FR, GR, IC, NO, PT, SC, SE with a list of questions such as: How do you conduct discard monitoring? How do you raise your data? How do you stratify your data?

Each country will reply with a 2-3 page report which will then be collated and analysed by MI (IE). The analysis will inform future discussions on the rationalisation of the methodology.

**2. Camera systems (led by Cefas, UK)**

During the meeting Cefas (UK) briefly interviewed IEO (ES), SBF (SE), and DTU Aqua (DK) to establish how cameras were being trialled. By comparing the different approaches taken by each organisation, conclusions may be reached on the best use of cameras for different monitoring targets (i.e. some monitor single species, some estimate % of discards; some are mounted on the gear underwater, some provide data on catch sorting on deck).

*Collaborative action*

Cefas (UK) will email a summary of how cameras were used in each organisation. Each organisation would be visited to further understand the application of cameras, including their specification, location and monitoring target.

A report will be produced and circulated to interested organisations (target date April 2009).

**3. Collaboration on gear trials – cod avoidance**

FRS Aberdeen (SC) will collaborate with Cefas on gear trials for cod avoidance, testing large mesh panels, with input from Seafish and IFREMER.

**4. Electro-shrimp trials (led by ILVO, Belgium)**

ILVO (BE) has already conducted trials on this area and will produce the final report for the latest project shortly, together with some observational material. An external institute has investigated the effect of electric pulses on different marine species, with no detrimental effects observed so far. Future work will repeat the investigation with increasing power output to establish the threshold of safety for marine life. Once this is complete there will be scope for a European project to test the application of the technology aboard fishing vessels.

*Collaborative actions*

ILVO (BE) has invited organisations to attend a short sea trip in Ostend. Once some extra work on the impact of electric pulses on marine life is complete, organisations are invited to form a European collaborative project with possible EC/EFF funding.

## **5. Toolkit for Area VII Nephrops fishery (led by MI and BIM, Ireland)**

It was agreed that a short report was needed, aimed at both fishermen and policy customers, to outline the important issues that urgently require action for Area VII fishermen. Briefly, the Commission's Non-Paper on discards required action within the next 13 months to demonstrate radical reductions in discarding of 50%. The document would contain a summary of the technical options as an annex.

The need to provide clear explanations and personalised support to fishermen was acknowledged as a result of discussions over possible barriers to the uptake of new gear by fishermen. Along with providing information and possible solutions it was recognised that help to implement the solutions may be required. Fishermen would be offered support to ensure that they were able to fit the gear correctly and obtain the best results for their fishing activities.

Work carried out in Area VII would provide a case study for others to use when attempting similar work in other areas or fisheries. The alternative technical solutions could be of interest for all partners.

### *Collaborative actions*

The report will be produced jointly by BIM (IE), MI (IE) and Seafish (UK) and forwarded to all attendees.

The work carried out by FRS (SC) on developing a toolkit will be used as a model.

## **6. T90 Developmental work (joint led by SFI, Poland and vTI, Germany)**

SFI (PL), vTI (GE), IFREMER (FR) and ILVO (BE) have agreed to share data and information on their progress with T90, including new selective devices and collaboration with industry. The work will draw on developments and discussions held at the ICES Group on Turned 90° Codend Selectivity, focusing on Baltic Cod Selectivity (SGTCOD) in May 2009 which is co-chaired by Waldemar Moderhak (SFI)

### *Collaborative actions*

Next year vTI (GE) will work with ILVO (BE) to start experimental beam trawl on cod ends, and in France, vTI will work on bottom trawls with IFREMER. Once complete, the aim is to try to construct a total T90 bottom trawl testing in Germany and Belgium and also tests in the IFREMER flume tank. SFI (PL) will study the T90 on the Polish RV BALTICA and probably on German RV SOLEA next year. Future plans include designing and testing a gear made totally of T90 meshes in the IFREMER flume tank.

## **7. Discard utilisation, logbook analysis (led by Matis, Iceland)**

Matis (IC) elaborated on the value chain analysis and logbook analysis that had been developed. Others were invited to learn from the work.

### *Collaborative actions*

A one page summary of the work will be available on the MariFish public website.

Full details of the research projects will be emailed on request.

Matis offered to act as an external advisor to help other organisations to adopt the approaches that Iceland had developed.

### **8. Purse Seine (led by IMR, Norway)**

SE, DK and NO, who have similar fisheries, have agreed to work together and exchange information on purse seine work. IMR will lead in the development of this collaboration.

### **9. Technical Solutions to 15% Observer (led by BIM, Ireland)**

Information on the use of cameras (gathered by Cefas, UK) will inform considerations on how feasible it would be to use cameras to help to meet the 15% observer target that was suggested by the Commission. BIM will compile a report on Area VII fisheries covering issues such as whether it was possible to satisfy the 15% observer requirement using cameras and how many vessels could physically take an observer.

#### *Collaborative action*

The draft report will be forwarded to IPIMAR (PT) for comment and the final report will be circulated to all attendees.

### **10. Video Footage**

Seafish (UK) will be developing a simple guide to a number of gear modifications. Operators were asked if they would be willing to donate some clear footage of gear operating for use on his website, which would be available to view by the general public.

#### *Collaborative action*

FRS (SC) and BIM (IE) agreed to donate some footage.

### **MariFish WP8 Joint Call for Research**

During the meeting the forthcoming call for proposals was discussed (see minutes for more details) and participants were invited to discuss possibilities for a collaborative proposal.

IFREMER (FR), HCMR (GR), IPIMAR (PT), Matis (IC), DTU Aqua (DK) expressed their intention to discuss the call further, with the possibility of forming one or several research consortia.