



Description of the fishery in the Kattegat - with a plan for its future

1 Species, quotas, importance

The main target species for the fishery in the Kattegat are (listed in the order of economic value)

Nephrops

Sole

Plaice

Cod ???

To be filled in....

2 Fleets, vessels, fishing gear

To be filled in....

3 Effort

The effort from different fleets in Kattegat is indicated in the figure below

To be filled in....

4 Protection of cod

a) Protection of spawners

A number of areas where spawning of cod is believed to take place is shown in Annex I. Identification of the areas is based on a survey amongst Danish and Swedish fishermen.

A special regulation of the effort within the identified spawning areas is proposed to take place through a Real Time Closure (RTC) system. To ensure that the closures will target aggregations of spawning cod the system will only be in force in the season of spawning – identified in Kattegat as falling between the 1st of February and the 1st of May.

Within that period, whenever a fisherman – in one of the identified areas – catches more than [20 cod larger than 45 cm][30 cod larger than MLS] he will report to [National authorities][the RTC management group] and the area will be closed for a period of 6 weeks.

When the 6 weeks have passed the area is automatically reopened. If spawning cod are still aggregating in the area it will be closed for another 6 week period again. If the closing period of 6 weeks goes beyond the 1st of May the areas will be reopened – regardless of the occurrence of cod.

b) Protection of juveniles

For the protection of juveniles, a similar system, but with different trigger levels, is envisioned. The occurrence of aggregations of juvenile cod (in this context defined as cod below MLS) is less predictable and more sporadic than aggregations of spawning cod. Therefore a system of “regulation squares” is established – shown in Annex II. Closures to protect juvenile cod need to be flexible and to be able to move with the fish. These closures are therefore only in effect for a period of two weeks.

5 Administration

A Committee is set up to administrate the management of the RTC system – under the Skagerrak/Kattegat WG of the NS RAC.

For both systems a “verification process” potentially involving vessels from the reference fleets can be established.