

EFFORT MANAGEMENT SCHEME KATTEGAT

REVISED DRAFT PROPOSAL JUNE 2006

1. Introduction

A number of meetings have been held since the work started on Effort Management in Kattegat in January 2005, and since the first "official" proposal was presented in June 2005.

These have been national meetings, meetings in the North Sea RAC working group for Skagerrak/Kattegat (WG S/K), and meetings have been held with the European Commission and with the Fisheries Committee in the European Parliament.

The discussions and meetings have illustrated the need to present a revised draft proposal.

It is very important to distinguish between what is "EU-level" (TAC/quota Regulation), and what is "National level" (national management).

The following proposal, therefore, is a proposal dealing with the issues that belong, at the "EU-level".

In the proposal presented in 2005 all the good reasons for effort management were listed. They have not been repeated here, as nothing has changed.

Since the original proposal was presented we have had positive reactions from our colleagues in the North Sea RAC, from individual governments in the EU, from the European Parliament, where a special hearing was convened, and from the European Commission both through its declaration from 22. December 2005, and through the personal commitment expressed by Commissioner Borg at the Europeche General Assembly 19. May 2006.

2. Draft Proposal Effort Management Scheme Kattegat

2.1. Basis for the trial

Option A: The Council does not fix TACs for Kattegat.

For the common Skagerrak/Kattegat TACs a TAC (-component) is fixed for Skagerrak. The basis is the historical split in the fishery between Skagerrak and Kattegat.

Option B: TACs are decided, but the Kattegat TACs or components of common Skagerrak/Kattegat TACs are suspended for those countries participating in the effort management.

Calculation of Skagerrak/Kattegat components of common TACs is done on the basis of the historical fishery in a relevant reference-period.

In the longer term, for those stocks which the Kattegat has in common with adjacent areas catch forecasts should be made separately for each area.

2.2. Scope of the Effort Management Scheme

The Effort Management Scheme covers all fishing in the Kattegat in those fisheries defined as being part of the scheme (country/demersal/gear?)

- it is not a voluntary scheme.

2.3. Starting date and time frame

The Effort Management Scheme is expected to start by 1. January 2007 (also given as the latest starting date by the Commission in its declaration of 22. December 2005).

The Effort Management Scheme is expected to be constructed with a multi-annual perspective, but subject to possible annual adjustments/changes if and when needed. As a minimum the scheme shall be in force for a period of one year.

2.4. Fisheries covered

All demersal fisheries in Kattegat done by vessels flying the flag of countries participating in the scheme are covered by the scheme.

2.5. Allocation of Effort

Each participating country is allocated a “quantity” of effort in the form of kW-days.

The allocation shall be determined by negotiations between the fishermen’s organisations of the participating states, in consultation with the authorities of these states. Amongst other, the background for these negotiations shall be:

- actual effort measured in kW-days over a chosen reference-period
- a sum of the quotas of the participating states on all demersal species, weighted by cod-equivalents or similar value-based comparison

How this effort is distributed between vessels nationally is a national matter, but in respect of the rules in points 2.6 and 2.7.

2.6. Distribution of Effort over the year

Although the aim is to maximize the freedom to manage the national effort and the freedom to use the effort for the individual vessel it is to be decided at EU-level:

- Option A: which proportion of the available effort may be used in the 1st quarter of the year, for example 15-20 % of the annual effort.
- Option B: which “overprice” to pay for the effort used in the 1st quarter. For example could 1 kW-day used in the 1st quarter cost 3 kW-days out of the total belonging to a vessel

It is worth considering whether the fishing pattern should be managed as described in option A or B; or whether it shall be the responsibility of the Kattegat Management-committee (see 2.7) to regulate the fishing-pressure.

Up to 80% of the cod are landed in the 1st quarter, because it is relatively easy. If a maximum effort (a ceiling) is defined for the 1st quarter, or if it is made more “expensive” to fish in the first quarter this will constitute an efficient brake on the fishery targeting cod, and will consequently make it possible to live up to the cod recovery plan.

Rules need to be decided specifying how extra days can be obtained through the use of more selective gear than “the defined minimum”, for example sorting panels etc. For highly selective fisheries such as with sorting grid, this can mean fishing without an upper limit of days.

2.7. Kattegat Management-committee

A management committee is to be given responsibility for managing the seasonal fishing-pattern and local fishing-pressure in the Kattegat. It shall consist of representatives of the fishermen’s organisations as well as producers’ organisations of the participating countries. The committee shall be technically assisted by the fisheries institutes and directorates of their countries.

The work of the committee will be continually reported to the NSRAC.

More detailed instructions for the work of the committee will be determined later and be subject to acceptance by the commission as well as the participating states.

2.8. Distribution of Effort among segments of the fleet

At central level – EU – allocation keys are decided on how to distribute the effort between fleet segments – country by country.

The fleets are segmented in the following way:

Pelagic fishery (only for information purposes)

Trawl, mesh size 90mm or above

Trawl, mesh size less than 90mm

Passive gears

Vessels of less than 10 m length.

The reason for distributing the effort between fleet segments is that this will prevent the fishing pattern from being distorted, and hence prevent the scheme from being abused.

2.9. Definition of Effort

The effort allocated to each country is calculated in kW-days.

For the individual vessels the days are defined as defined in the cod recovery plans.

For vessels of less than 10 m length every landing is counted as a day.

2.10. Technical rules

A system of Real Time Closures will be established to come into use where concentrations of juveniles are experienced.

Areas, which can be closed for a limited time period and later automatically reopened, may be predefined prior to the start of the effort scheme in order to facilitate the use of the real time closures instrument.

Real time closures are to be administered by the Kattegat management-committee.

2.11. Freedom to fish and land

Within the number of days allocated to a vessel the vessel may fish and land legal catch (catch fulfilling minimum legal size requirements) without quantitative restrictions.

National minimum landing sizes shall be harmonised with EU minimum landing sizes in conjunction with the scheme. In the longer term a review of EU minimum landing sizes and other technical regulations in the Kattegat may be necessary.

Restrictions.

One net rule.

The possibility of using more than 2 trawls will be phased out, and a maximum of 2 trawls will be allowed from 1. January 2008.

For specific gears restrictions may be introduced, for example a max. of 10'' for Bobbins trawl.

2.12. Control (and sanctions)

It must be stated as a general principle that all participants in the effort scheme must be controlled effectively. This notwithstanding the control measures shall be of such a nature that their consequences for the fishermen underpin the general aims of the scheme.

Vessels of a length of more than 15 m must apply VMS as previously. For vessels of less than 15 m VMS, AIS or a similar system will be applied.

A system of electronic logbook reporting shall be introduced as fast as possible.

2.13. Scientific monitoring

Scientists will have full access to the fishery and to information from the fishery. Following the introduction of the scheme the scientific institutes must develop a new basis for the scientific

advice. This will a.o. include monitoring procedures, scientific surveys and the use of new reference fleets.

2.14. Supervising and reporting

The North Sea RAC will supervise, follow and report on the Effort Management Scheme to the Commission and Member States.

2.15. Financing

In order to successfully develop, implement and run an Effort Management Scheme for the Kattegat it is important to ensure the necessary financing, comprising:

- costs incurred by scientific institutions, management units and state authorities
- costs incurred by vessels installing equipment necessary for the scheme
- costs incurred by the Management Committee in running the scheme

Finances for the scheme are expected to be found in the structural funds – FIGF/EFF.