

Fisheries Information Notice 8-2013 Pelagic Vessels technical measures grading equipment



The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority has issued Fisheries Information Notice 8 of 2013 entitled “Pelagic Vessels technical measures grading equipment” including details of close periods.

LEGISLATION

References: EC 850/98 Technical measures for the protection of juvenile marine organisms.
EC 227-2013 Amending EC 850 of 98
SI 197 of 2013 Sea Fisheries technical conservation measures

Technical measures handling and discharge on pelagic vessels

Water separator

The maximum space between bars in the water separator on board pelagic fishing vessels targeting mackerel, herring and horse mackerel operating in the NEAFC Convention Area as defined in Article 3(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1236/2010 shall be 10 millimetres.

The bars shall be welded in place. If holes are used in the water separator instead of bars, the maximum diameter of the holes shall not exceed 10 millimetres. Holes in the chutes before the water separator shall not exceed 15 millimetres in diameter.

Discharge

Pelagic vessels operating in the NEAFC Convention Area shall be prohibited from discharging fish under their water line from buffer tanks or Refrigerated seawater (RSW) tanks.

Additional documents and drawings

Drawings related to the catch handling and discharge capabilities of pelagic vessels targeting mackerel, herring and horse mackerel in the NEAFC Convention Area which are certified by the competent authorities of the flag Member States, as well as any modifications thereto, shall be sent by the master of the vessel to the competent fisheries authorities of the flag Member State.

The competent authorities of the flag Member State of the vessels shall carry out periodic verifications of the accuracy of the drawings submitted. Copies shall be carried on board the vessel at all times.’

Restriction on the use of grading equipment

These restrictions apply in all Community waters and in the area of the North east Atlantic Fisheries Convention. Diagram 1

Automatic grading equipment

The carrying or use on board a fishing vessel of equipment which is capable of automatically grading by size or by sex herring or mackerel or horse mackerel shall be prohibited.

However, the carrying and use of such equipment shall be permitted provided that:

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- (a) the vessel does not simultaneously carry or use on board either towed gear of mesh size less than 70 millimetres or one or more purse seines or similar fishing gears;
- or**
- (b) (i) the whole of the catch which may be lawfully retained on board is stored in a frozen state, the graded fish are frozen immediately after grading and **no graded fish are returned to the sea;**
- And**
- (ii) the equipment is installed and located on the vessel in such a way as to ensure immediate freezing and **not to allow the return of marine organisms to the sea.**

The practice of high grading is not condoned by fishers concerned about long term sustainability of the industry, it is also a difficult behaviour to detect and prevent. The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority request members of the public in particular mariners who observe evidence of disposal of quantities of fish of legal landing size to provide such information in confidence to:

Confidential Telephone Line: 1890 76 76 76

E-Mail: fish@sfpa.ie

or your local Sea Fisheries Protection Office details available at www.sfpa.ie



Diagram 1

These restrictions apply in all water waters coloured Orange and Blue in the diagram

fish@sfpa.ie david.keeley@sfpa.ie

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