


# DiscardLess

## Newsletter No. 1, November 2015

<p>Coordinator's welcome</p> <p>Clara Ulrich, DTU Aqua, Denmark</p> 	<p>Welcome to the first <i>DiscardLess</i> newsletter. The project started a bit more than 8 months ago, on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. There are a lot of good things going on, and activities are developing according to the workplan. But these are not always directly released and available to the public, so we are therefore sending a brief overview of what has been done so far and what is on the way. Our website, <a href="http://www.discardless.eu">http://www.discardless.eu</a> is also expanding now, and will be updated regularly when new material comes in.</p> <p>The project was officially launched during its Kick-Off meeting in April 2015, that was held in connection with the conference on the Landings Obligation (LO) organised by the SINAVAL Fair in Bilbao. This was an occasion for numerous and fruitful meetings with a large diversity of stakeholders and policy makers. Since then, we have used our time in gathering and sharing data and knowledge across geographical areas and disciplines, and we have also engaged in a number of tasks... Following is a brief update on each of our Work Packages. We look forward to meet with you again throughout our project.</p>
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<p>Work Package 1 : <b>Ecosystem-Scale assessment</b></p> <p>Leader: Marie Savina, IFREMER, France</p>	<p><b>What?</b> WP1 will evaluate the consequences of the LO and subsequent changes in fishing practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• on fish stock dynamics and advice,</li> <li>• on the other compartments of the marine ecosystems.</li> </ul> <p><b>End Products?</b> WP1 will produce :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviews of the current knowledge on discarding practices and the effect of discards on the environment ,</li> <li>• For each region, annual updates of the effects of the LO implementation on the status and management of the main</li> </ul>
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fish stocks ,

- An assessment of the impact of alternative Discard Mitigation Strategies on the ecosystem.

**Status now?** WP1 has already completed a number of tasks, and two reports (deliverables) are already produced :

- *D1.1 : Review on the current effect of discarding on fish stocks and marine ecosystems; on data, knowledge and models of discarding; and identification of knowledge gaps in all case studies.* This comprehensive document summarises a large number of scientific publications on the biological and ecological processes involved in discarding, and describe the ecological knowledge of our case studies
- *D1.2: Identification of standard ecosystem evaluation criteria for the assessment of the Discard Mitigation Strategies.* This document defines which ecological criteria will be used to evaluate the ecosystem impact of various scenarios across the various regions and models. In particular, the report clarifies how the ecosystem models will evaluate the impact of discarding on the Good Environmental Status (GES) indicators of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

## Work Package 2 : Fishery-Scale assessment

Leader: Peder  
Andersen, IFRO,  
Denmark




**What?** WP2 will provide best estimates of likely economic and social effects of implementation of the landings obligation at the fishery scale (individual and fleet). This WP emphasizes that discarding is a choice motivated by economic and social incentives, and these must thus be addressed in the implementation of the LO.

**End Products?** WP2 will produce :


- An estimation of socioeconomic effects of the implementation of the LO under different scenarios (fleet level).
- A monitoring of changes in economic and social factors during and after the actual implementation of the LO.
- Reviews of the current knowledge on discarding practices and the effect of discards on the environment ,
- For each region, annual updates of the effects of the LO implementation on the status and management of the main fish stocks ,
- An assessment of the impact of alternative Discard Mitigation Strategies on the ecosystem.


**Status now?** WP2 follows the same timeline as WP1, and has also completed the initial reviews in two reports (deliverables) :


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>D2.1: Report on the available economic data related to discard, on bio-economic fishery models, on the current knowledge on discard incentives, perception, attitudes and resulting fisher behaviour and on knowledge gaps for all case studies fisheries.</i> This document summarises the economic processes involved in discarding, and describe the bio-economic models available in each case studies. A number of economic impact analyses are already available in a number of countries.</li> <li>• <i>D1.2: Appropriate economic and social criteria to evaluate the Discard Mitigation Strategies and the defined management scenarios</i> This document defines which criteria will be used to evaluate the economic impact of various scenarios across the various regions and models, and emphasizes how to measure changes in the social and cultural drivers of fishermen perception of the LO.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Work Package 3 : Adaptation of gear technology</b></p> <p>Leader: Barry O' Neill, MSS, UK</p> 	<p><b>What?</b> It is better to avoid unwanted catch in the first place rather than have to deal with their consequences on deck or ashore. WP3 will encourage and promote the avoidance of unwanted catches through technological means.</p> <p><b>End Products?</b> The WP3 will increase awareness, evaluate the performance and review the introduction of existing solutions; enhance real-time decision making; and explore the use of innovative technologies to improve selectivity.</p> <p><b>Status now?</b> WP3 is progressing along several directions. The existing knowledge about selective devices is being gathered across regions and fisheries. A couple of national manuals exist already. Additionally, WP3 is exploring some new technological paths. The use of light to improve selection in towed fishing gears is being investigated and how underwater cameras can help daily decision-making is being explored.</p>
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<p><b>Work Package 4 : Adaptation of fishing strategies</b></p> <p>Leader: Dave Reid, MI, Ireland</p>	<p><b>What?</b> WP4 will formalise both fishers' and scientists' knowledge into the understanding of where and when to fish, and will investigate options to use this knowledge to avoid unwanted catches.</p> <p><b>End Products?</b> Some „challenge experiments“, where fishers try to reduce discards by their own means, and state of the art scientific models and data providing information on e.g. „ discard risk hot spots“.</p>
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	<p><b>Status now?</b> „Challenges experiments“ (co-financed with national fundings) have already been conducted in Ireland, France and Denmark. Results are still being analysed in details, but we know that avoiding unwanted catches has been achieved with varying degrees of success. This highlights that avoidance is a difficult mindshift, that will take time to develop. Additionally, progresses are ongoing in the fine scale analysis of logbooks and observers data to investigate their suitability in detecting hot spots.</p>
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<p>Work Package 5 : <b>From deck to first sale</b></p> <p>Leader: Jonas R. Vidarsson, MATIS, Iceland</p> 	<p><b>What?</b> WP5 aims to identify applicable onboard solutions for fishermen to meet with requirements of the landing obligation of the CFP. Here we will explore, develop and validate alternatives for onboard handling and onboard Monitoring, Control &amp; Surveillance of Unavoidable Unwanted Catches.</p> <p><b>End Products?</b> WP5 will provide a list of tools and technologies that allow fishermen to bring unwanted catches ashore in a fully documented manner.</p> <p><b>Status now?</b> WP5 has just completed its first deliverable : <i>D5.1: Report on current practices in the handling of unavoidable, unwanted catches</i>, which reviews the practices of onboard handling and market use of unwanted catches (discards and fish waste) in some fisheries operating with a discard ban, mainly Iceland, Norway and Canada.</p> <p>Additionally, WP5 has started some tasks on tools for monitoring, control and surveillance that will focus on e.g. remote Electronic Monitoring and DNA-based traceability.</p>
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<p>Work Package 6 : <b>Products to the value chain</b></p> <p>Leader: Begoña Perez Villareal, AZTI, Spain</p> 	<p><b>What?</b> WP6 will identify, develop, evaluate, select, demonstrate and validate an integral solution to make best use of unwanted catches without creating economic incentives and inadvertently developing markets for such products</p> <p><b>End Products?</b> WP6 will document promising and cost-effective solutions to marine by-products</p> <p><b>Status now?</b> WP6 is now completing its first deliverable: <i>D6.1: Diagnosis of the inventory of the generated unavoidable unwanted catch</i>, which collects and reviews the state of knowledge for some case studies, from many different sources of information. This includes for example: the type and variability of the potential volume of discards that may be landed under the LO, the potential distribution across fishing harbours and the existing infrastructures in these harbours to handle unwanted catches.</p>
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<p><b>Work Package 7 : Framing and implementing the discard policy</b></p> <p>Leader: Kåre Nolde Nielsen, UiT, Norway</p> 	<p><b>What?</b> WP7 will analyse the in-depth institutional and policy aspects of the LO (background, objectives and tradeoffs), and will identify good discard ban practices. WP7 will also act as the synthesis WP, bringing together the results of the other WPs.</p> <p><b>End Products?</b> WP7 will issues regular policy briefs across the various regions.</p> <p><b>Status now?</b> WP7 will deliver later than the other WPs, as it builds on their knowledge. But WP7 is ongoing collecting information about the development of policy and governance around the landing obligation, both within and outside the EU.</p>
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<p><b>Work Package 8 : Bringing results to users and spreading the word</b></p> <p>Leader: Carsten Meedom, Alphafilm, Denmark</p> 	<p><b>What?</b> WP8 is responsible for the communication and the dissemination of the projects results, but inside and outside of the consortium.</p> <p><b>End Products?</b> WP8 will maintain a lively and updated website, where the progresses of the project will be documented in various ways, and scientific results will be made available, including the deliverables. WP8 is also building our DMS ToolBox (Discard Mitigation Strategies Toolbox), where the outcomes of the previous WPs can be explored and compared in a dynamic and user-friendly way.</p> <p><b>Status now?</b> Our website, <a href="http://www.discardless.eu">http://www.discardless.eu</a> is now active, and its initial content is being populated. Major focus will be given to keep it updated throughout the project. The frame of the DMS Toolbox is also being framed, and will be populated during the next half-year.</p>
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