The optimal process of self-sampling in fisheries

*Lessons learned from the Netherlands*

9 May 2012, Marloes Kraan, Josien Steenbergen, Edwin van Helmond
(How) Can we use Self Sampling as a tool to get more information on discards?

Cooperation = The process

Self sampling = The method

Discards = The topic

I

II

III
Cooperation in the Netherlands

“The relation is very good at the moment

- Regular contact in cooperation platform
- Industry survey
- Fisheries Innovation Platform
- Study groups (13)
Cooperation: the process

Science in partnership of industry*

- Information on stock for assessment/management purposes
- Fishery-dependent data collection
- Innovation and sustainability
- Self sampling of discards
- Gear selectivity studies
- Industry based surveys

Johnson & van Densen, 2007
Discards the topic: *Dutch Flatfish fishery*

- Total discards up to 80%*
Increased need for information on Discards

‘License to produce’
Collecting data

Observer programmes:
- E.g. 8 trips/year:
  `the estimate of discard %`
- Clustered data
- Limited temporal & Spatial coverage
- Diversification of gears
  → Increase sampling effort

Self Sampling
Self sampling method I

Sample Analyses at the laboratory
Self Sampling method II

Fishermen sample 1-4 hauls:

1. Commercial Fish
2. Other fish
3. Benthic species
Examples

- EU DCR (%)
- Reference fleet (25)
- Monthly sampling

- Pulse: proof the burden for the EU
- Reference fleet (20)
- Weekly sampling

- Innovation projects
- Small group, one or more vessels
- Short period of weekly sampling
Benefits

- Increase in spatial & temporal coverage
- Information on a fishing method relatively unknown
- Direct quick information on performance of gear
- Better understanding of the data produced
- Acceptance of the discard data by industry
- Increased awareness

“its only after sampling myself I realized that we actually do have a lot of discards”
Risks

- Bad implementation
- Misunderstanding of 'why to do it'
- Acceptance of the data for assessments
- Acceptance of the data in EU
- Acceptance of the outcome by participants

Ownership / compensation
Dialogue on perceptions / relevance of discards?
Combine observer trips
Expectation management

‘Only young fish are discards’
Yes we can!

Know how to ‘cook the fish’:

- **Self sampling is a tool, the process can add value**
  - Incentives: ownership / compensation
  - Perception: relevance of discards?
  - Expectation management
  - Acceptance of data in the outer world

- **Custom made (‘No one size fits all’)**
  - Design in dialogue
  - Discuss findings regularly
  - Take your time....
Why do we expect the fishers to accept our collected data with all its limitations, when we are not able to accept data collected by fishers?