



Ministry of Food, Agriculture  
and Fisheries of Denmark  
Department

# Revision of the EU Fisheries Control Regulation - state of play (weighing)

Copenhagen, Workshop: The  
Danish Solution on Pelagic Bulk  
Landings  
21 April 2023  
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# Outline

## **Revision of the Union Fisheries Control System**

- **State of play – Fisheries Control Regulation – with a view to weighing provisions and related provisions**

## **Coastal States control measures for pelagic stocks in the North-East Atlantic**

- **Focussing on weighing**

# Revision of the Union Fisheries Control System

## Process

**May 2018 - Commission proposal**

**June 2021 - Council General Approach**

**March 2021 - European Parliament amendment proposals**

**July 2021 - May (?) 2023 Trilogue**

**June 2023 - Political agreement (?)**

**Autumn 2023 - formal adoption (?)**

**2 years later application of regulation (some IT provisions delayed application)**

**Implementing rules to be negotiated**



# Revision of the Union Fisheries Control System – weighing provisions

Based on Council General Approach

## General rule

**All quantities of fishery products shall be weighed on landing prior to being held storage, transported or sold**

- **If landed in a Union Member State**

- **All quantities weighed per species after landing by operators authorised by the competent authorities to carry out weighing activities and on weighing systems approved by the competent authorities**
- **Operators to complete a weighing record for each landing**
- **Operators to keep weighing records for a period of three years**
- **Member States to ensure that operators are adequately equipped to weigh**

**Master of third country fishing vessels landing in the Union shall comply with rules applicable to masters of Union fishing vessels**

- **In case of landings outside the Union**

- **Masters of Union fishing vessels shall ensure that all quantities of fishery products are weighed, where possible, immediately after the landing prior to those products being held in storage, transported or placed on the market**



# Revision of the Union Fisheries Control System – weighing provisions

## Derogations

- **Subject to the approval from the Commission, Member States may permit fishery products landed to be weighed on weighing systems approved by the competent authorities**
  - **On landing in accordance with a sampling plan(s), irrespective of whether they are sorted or unsorted**
  - **On board, in case of sorted fishery products, provided that those products are weighed on landing in accordance with a sampling plan.**
    - **Flag Member State responsible for granting the derogation to catching vessels flying its flag and ensuring that weighing systems on board are approved**
  - **After transport to a destination on the territory of the Member State where the landing took place, in accordance with a control plan, irrespective of whether they are sorted or unsorted**
  - **After transport from the Member State where the fishery products were landed to a destination on the territory of another Member State, in accordance with a common control programme and upon agreement between the Member States concerned, irrespective of whether they are sorted or unsorted**

# Revision of the Union Fisheries Control System – weighing provisions

- **Weighing to be carried out by an operator (e.g. a registered buyer, a registered auction, a producer organisation or any other natural or legal person, including the master) authorised by the competent authorities to carry out weighing**
- **Those operators shall be responsible for the accuracy of the weighing**
- **Those operators shall complete a weighing record for each landing, which they shall keep for a period of 3 years**
- **Member States shall ensure that those operators are adequately equipped to carry out weighing**
- **Weighing records**
  - **Shall be transmitted immediately to the master and where applicable to the transporter**
  - **Shall be used for the completion of the landing declaration and transport document if applicable**
  - **Member States may require operators to submit the weighing records at regular intervals or upon request to their competent authorities**

# Revision of the Union Fisheries Control System – weighing provisions

## Detailed rules on weighing

### Commission empowered to adopt rules on:

- the determination of weighing procedures
- the weighing records including the keeping of these records
- the time of the weighing
- the weighing systems including weighing systems for control purposes
- the weighing of frozen fishery products
- the deduction of ice and water
- the access of competent authorities to weighing systems
- the weighing of certain pelagic species
- the weighing of catches from small pelagic fisheries and fisheries for industrial purposes landed fresh and unsorted

# Coastal States Agreement on Control Measures for Pelagic Stocks in the NEA

**New Agreed Record of Conclusions of November 2022**

**Parties:**

**Norway, The European Union, The Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and the United Kingdom**

**Species:**

**Mackerel, Atlanto-Scandian herring, blue whiting and horse mackerel**

**Landings:**

**Exceeding 10 tonnes**

**Application of measures:**

**Measures to be applied when landing in ports of the parties**

**At the latest from 1 January 2026**

**Terms of Reference for a CS MCS WG for 2023 and 2024**





# CS AR on Control Measures for pelagic stock in the NEA - Annexes

## Agreed Record contains

- **Measures to be monitored concerning slipping, discards and high-grading of pelagic stocks (Annex I)**
- **Measures to be applied concerning inspections of pelagic landings (Annex II)**
- **Measures to be applied concerning weighing of pelagic landings (Annex III)**
- **Measures to be applied concerning weighing systems used for pelagic landings (Annex IV)**
- **Measures to be applied concerning landings for industrial purposes (Annex V)**
- **Terms of Reference for a Coastal States Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Working Group (CS MCS WG) for 2023-2024 (Annex VI)**

## Measures to be applied concerning weighing of pelagic landings (Annex III)

**All quantities of fresh pelagic species to be weighed before sorting and processing  
Any deductions for waters shall not exceed 2% for landings for human consumption and 0% for landings for industrial purposes**

- **Level of deduction of water for landings for human consumption to be reviewed before entry into force based on recommendation by the CS MCS WG.**

**Frozen pelagic species landed to be determined either by weighing all boxes minus the tare weight (cardboard and plastic) or by multiplying the total number of boxes landed by average weight of the boxes minus the tare weight landed in the same shipment calculated according to an agreed sampling methodology**

- **EU evaluation regarding fixed 1.5 kg tare weight for frozen products is ongoing. Results to be shared in CS MSC WG. Based on this evaluation, CS MCS WG should consider the findings and recommend measures to allow a level playing field.**

# Measures to be applied concerning weighing systems used for pelagic landings (Annex IV)

## General requirements

- Weighing data concerning landings to be stored by those responsible for the weighing. Competent authorities to be given real-time access to such data. Data to be stored for at least 3 years.
- All changes in parameters and functions in the weighing system which affects the weighing result to be logged with date and time.
- Surveillance and sensor technologies mandatory at landing and processing facilities for landings of pelagic species where more than 3,000 t/year are weighed. The surveillance shall apply to the landing process and weighing locations covering the flow of the landed fish until completion of weighting. Competent authorities to have access to camera footage stored and if required by live stream. Not applying to transportation of landed catches to processing plant.
- Weighing indicator to be located in or close to and visible from the weighing unit.
- Critical functions shall be secured by sealing as determined by the competent authorities to prevent manipulation of the weighing system
- Competent authorities to have immediate access to the weighing system

# Measures to be applied concerning weighing systems used for pelagic landings (Annex IV) continued

## Special requirements for different types of scales (flow, batch and pallet)

### • Flow

- Counting device of weighing instrument to have a total running number of minimum eight digits
- Belt weighing system to have a stop function which automatically stops feeding if detectable errors or unable to weigh
- Belt weighing system to have automatic zero setting function to be activated prior to start of weighing and at a frequency determined by the competent authorities

### • Batch

- Counting device of weighing instrument to have a total running number of minimum eight digits
- Batch weighing system to have a stop function which automatically stops feeding if detectable errors or unable to weigh
- Pressure sensor shall be part of the stop function to secure sufficient pressure to hatch functions

### • Pallet

- Pallet scales to have automatic or semi-automatic log og pallet weighing

# Measures to be applied concerning landings for industrial purposes (Annex V)

- **General:**
  - All species to pass through a water draining system before weighing
  - Prohibition with arrangements which may contribute to loss of biological material between the water drainage system and the weighing system
- **Drum sieve systems**
  - During landing, landed material to go through only one drum sieve for water draining before weighing
  - Filtering holes in the drum sieve not to exceed 10 mm
  - Inside diameter of the drum sieve not to exceed 1700 mm
  - Length of sieves before weighing, excl. conveyer belts, not to exceed 11 meters in total
  - Rotation speed of drum sieve not to exceed 28 rounds per minute
  - Light opening in the filtering area not to exceed 45%
- **Belt draining systems**
  - In the front sieve, distance of filtering holes not to exceed 10 mm
  - Width of conveyor steel belt to be between 1.8 – 2.5 metres
  - Length of conveyor steel belt not to be less than 2.6 metres and not more than 10 metres

# Terms of Reference for CS MCS WG for 2023-2024 (Annex IV)

## Objective of the CS MCS WG:

To establish best practice in monitoring, control and surveillance both at sea and on land, and recommend harmonised MCS measures with the objective to increase compliance and secure level playing field for the concerned fisheries

First meeting 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023 in Bergen

## Tasks of WG:

- 1) Consider and recommend measures to avoid the deduction of fish as water that will allow a level playing field in this regard, possibly including the further reduction in a stepwise approach of allowed water deduction from 2% for landings for human consumption and the use of tare deductions for landings of frozen landings of pelagic species
- 2) Continue to follow the interagency cooperation between fisheries authorities and metrology services and the implementation of weighing requirements outlined in Annex IV
- 3) Follow up requirements for the use of water draining installations used on landings for industrial purposes outlined in Annex V and consider the effect of such installations with regard to loss of biological material
- 4) Review sampling systems and sampling plans in use for unsorted landings and, as appropriate recommend measures on this topic

# Terms of Reference for CS MCS WG for 2023-2024 (Annex IV) continued

## Tasks of WG continued:

- 5) **Map existing minimum catch and landing sizes of the Parties and recommend follow up procedures, including current regimes on move on provisions**
- 6) **Recommend a sampling methodology to weigh fish landed frozen**
- 7) **Map experience and knowledge on the use of technological solutions, e.g. CCTV, sensors, artificial intelligence, to reduce slipping, discarding and high-grading in pelagic fisheries and to improve catch documentation on board fishing vessels, and, as appropriate, recommend measures on this topic**
- 8) **To review agreed measures concerning the inspection of pelagic landings and, as appropriate, recommend measures on this topic**
- 9) **Map current practice and regulations regarding use of fish meal, ensilage and surimi production systems on board fishing vessels and consider how improved and innovative methods to utilize the whole fish can be implemented on board fishing vessels, in particular with regard to the use of graders, and at the same time attend the need to ensure compliance with the current regulations through monitoring, control and surveillance measures**
- 10) **Map current regulations regarding slipping in pelagic fisheries**