

Fisheries Commission requested (verbally):

4. Does the advice given in 2014 still stand?

Scientific Council responded:

Yes. There is no new analysis that would invalidate the previous advice.

Reference:

Kenchington, E., Murillo, F. J., Lirette, C., Sacau, M., Koen-Alonso, M., Kenny, A., Ollerhead, N., Wareham, V., and Beazley, L. 2014. Kernel density surface modelling as a means to identify significant concentrations of vulnerable marine ecosystem indicators. PLoS ONE 9.doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0109365.

IV. On the selectivity trials on cod 3M (see FC WP 16-07 and SC WP 16-19)

1. In the last NAFO Fisheries Commission Ad hoc Working Group Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) (NAFO/FC Doc. 16-05), the EU informed the Working Group of its experiment using sorting grids in fishing gears targeting cod in Division 3M and that, given the promising results (SC WP 16-09), STACREC encouraged further work in collaboration with SC.

The EU will continue the selectivity trials on 2017 thanks to the cooperation, as in 2016, of the Fish Producers' Organisation Ltd.

Could Scientific Council provide guidance on the protocol for carrying out the selectivity trials so the outcome of this trial can be fully used by SC 2017?

Scientific Council responded:

The lack of standardization in the 2016 experiment prevented a thorough evaluation of the results.

Further ad-hoc studies with improved design (e.g. increased sample size, randomized placement of the experimental gear, standardization of all other net parameters, adherence to a strict fish sampling protocol, etc.) may provide a sound basis for determining the effectiveness of the grid to alter the size composition of landings. This, however, does not constitute a selectivity experiment but may provide a means to demonstrate the effectiveness of the sorting grid. In addition, information on other major species in the catch such as redfish should be collected.

SC notes that a definitive selectivity experiment (e.g. Jorgensen, 2006) is a significant project that requires a sophisticated project design and dedicated resources. The analysis of the outcomes of this selectivity experiment could be applicable with respect to the cod fishery on the Flemish Cap.