



# STECF 22-04 & 23-02 REPORTS ON NQS & KING SCALLOP

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# OUTLINE

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Background to STECF Advice

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Main findings of STECF 22-04

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Main findings of STECF 23-02

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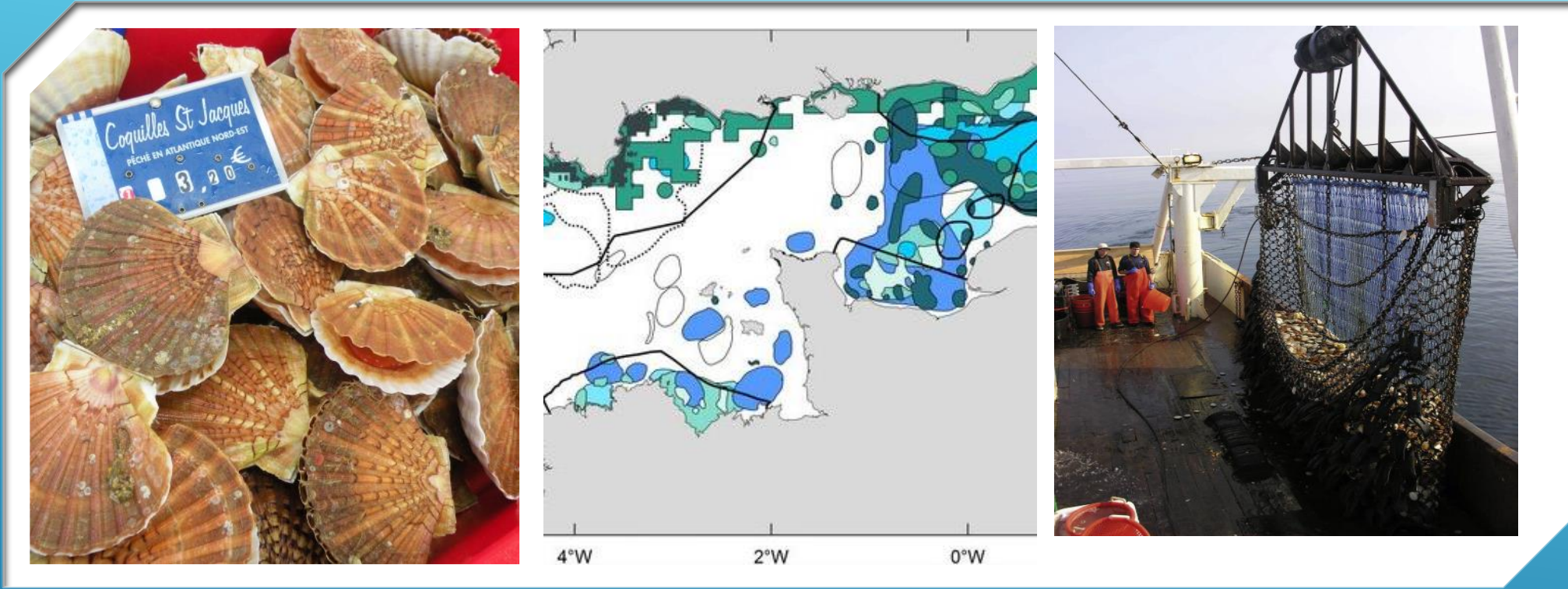
Final Remarks



# BACKGROUND TO STECF ADVICE



- EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement
- Specialised Committee for Fisheries
- Agreement to consider multi-year strategies for NQS
- 1<sup>st</sup> STECF assessment of non-quota stocks in NEA
- Variety of species including molluscs, crustaceans, elasmobranchs, and teleosts
- STECF looked at:
  - Data availability and gaps in knowledge
  - Stock status and assessment
  - Existing and potential management measures
  - Economic importance
- Initially considered 9 species and different 6 sea basins



# Focus on Channel Scallop fisheries

# OVERVIEW – STECF 22-04

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JRC SCIENCE FOR POLICY REPORT

Scientific, Technical and Economic  
Committee for Fisheries (STECF)

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Assessment and advice for non-  
quota stocks, to support the  
development of multi-annual  
strategies in the context EU-UK  
(STECF-22-04)

## ToR 1.

- Evaluate the quality of data
- Identify gaps and limitations of these data
- Define appropriate procedures and methods for improving the data

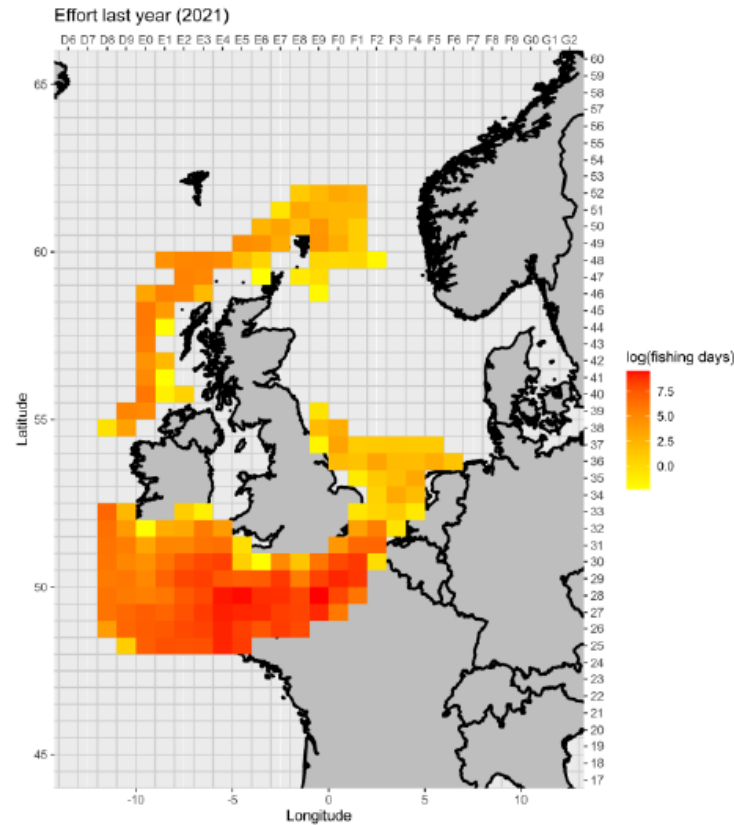
## ToR 2.

- Evaluate the current state of knowledge
- Identify specific issues for each sea basin
- Prioritize common issues across sea basins and species

## ToR 3.

- Create a list of relevant literature on fisheries management measures and strategies
- Analyse the current management measures/strategies

# TOR 1 – QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY OF DATA



- Considered data on NQS from 11 Member States based on data call
- Effort and landings data primarily
- Multiple data issues and data gaps identified
- Fishing effort data reported in different formats by Member State and by species
- Data a mixture of usable data for stock assessment and other data that has limited value
- Scallop data set for several countries one of the most complete particularly for Irish Sea, Celtic Sea, North Sea and Channel

# TOR 2 – FACT SHEETS

## 3.7.5 Fact Sheet king scallops

### Eastern English Channel (ICES div. 7d)

#### Facts at a glance

##### Landings:

increasing (EU data only)

##### Value:

71,168 thousand EUR

##### Assessment:

Biomass estimates or indices from survey in FRA waters and recently in UK and EU waters

##### Countries:

IRL, FRA, UK

##### Gears:

DRB (non-mechanized dredge). Minor catches in other gears.

##### Target/Bycatch species:

Target single species fishery. Low by-catch of quota and non-quota species

##### Recreational fisheries:

No

##### Threats:

Pressure of dredging on seafloor, no input or output control offshore, biotoxins can cause fishery closure

##### Data:

Logbook and VMS data on landings and effort. Survey time series FRA. Recent surveys by UK

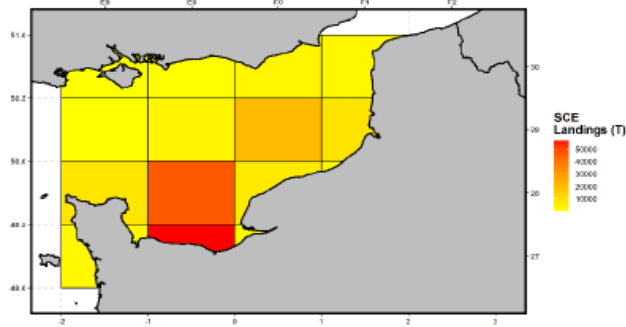


Figure 3-93 Landings of king scallop in the Eastern English Channel by ICES rectangle.

- Fact sheets provided for 6 sea basins:
  - North Sea
  - West of Scotland
  - Irish Sea
  - Celtic Sea
  - Western Channel
  - Eastern Channel
- Based on a range of data sources
- Contain landings data, geographical distribution and fisheries descriptions
- Economic importance of fisheries by Member State
- Useful for context but rather rudimentary

# TOR 3 – MANAGEMENT MEASURES



- Overview of available management measures for NQS
- Pros and cons assessed by measure/species/area
- Explore and develop multi-year management strategies
- Existing and potential measures
- Relevant measures for scallop fisheries identified:
  - Gear based technical measures (ring size)
  - Spatial and Temporal Closures
  - Capacity and effort controls
  - Marine Protected Areas
- Governance instruments
- Co-management approach advocated



# OVERVIEW – STECF 22-04



## ToR 1.

- Describe the similarities and differences between the current management measures in EU and UK waters
- Assess the effects on the fishery of alternative management such as using TACs/catch limits or effort regime

## ToR 2.

- Describe the availability and quality of data to support stock assessments and investigate management scenarios.
- Discuss and propose ways to address any issues arising

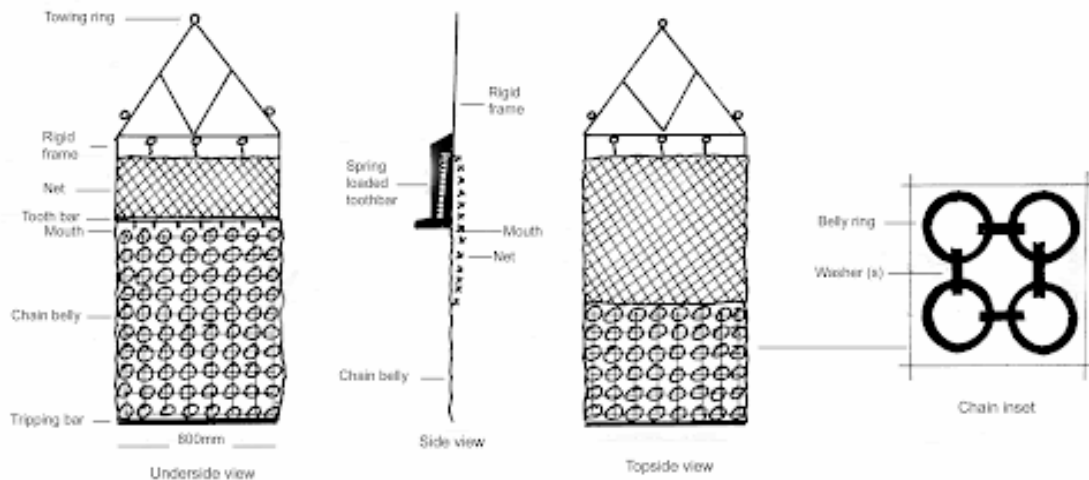
## ToR 3.

- Provide a detailed overview of the socio-economic importance of the king scallops fishery in the English Channel

# TOR 1 – MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Figure 1.

Newhaven Scallop (*Pecten maximus*) Dredge (Basic Parts)



- Range of management measures including ring sizes, closed areas, effort restrictions and TACs
- Different ring sizes used reflects the different growth within their respective habitats
- KW Day restrictions – EU legislation
- Temporal closed areas implemented nationally by France and voluntarily by the UK
- Irish scallop vessels restricted in the species they can target
- Area-based effort limitations have been implemented by France
- National TAC has also been introduced by France

**STECF Conclusion – Current measures are all viable options for the management of the fishery**

# TOR 2 – STOCK ASSESSMENT

SCALLOP ASSESSMENT WORKING GROUP  
(WGSCALLOP; outputs from 2023 meeting)

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ICES SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

RAPPORTS  
SCIENTIFIQUES DU CIEM

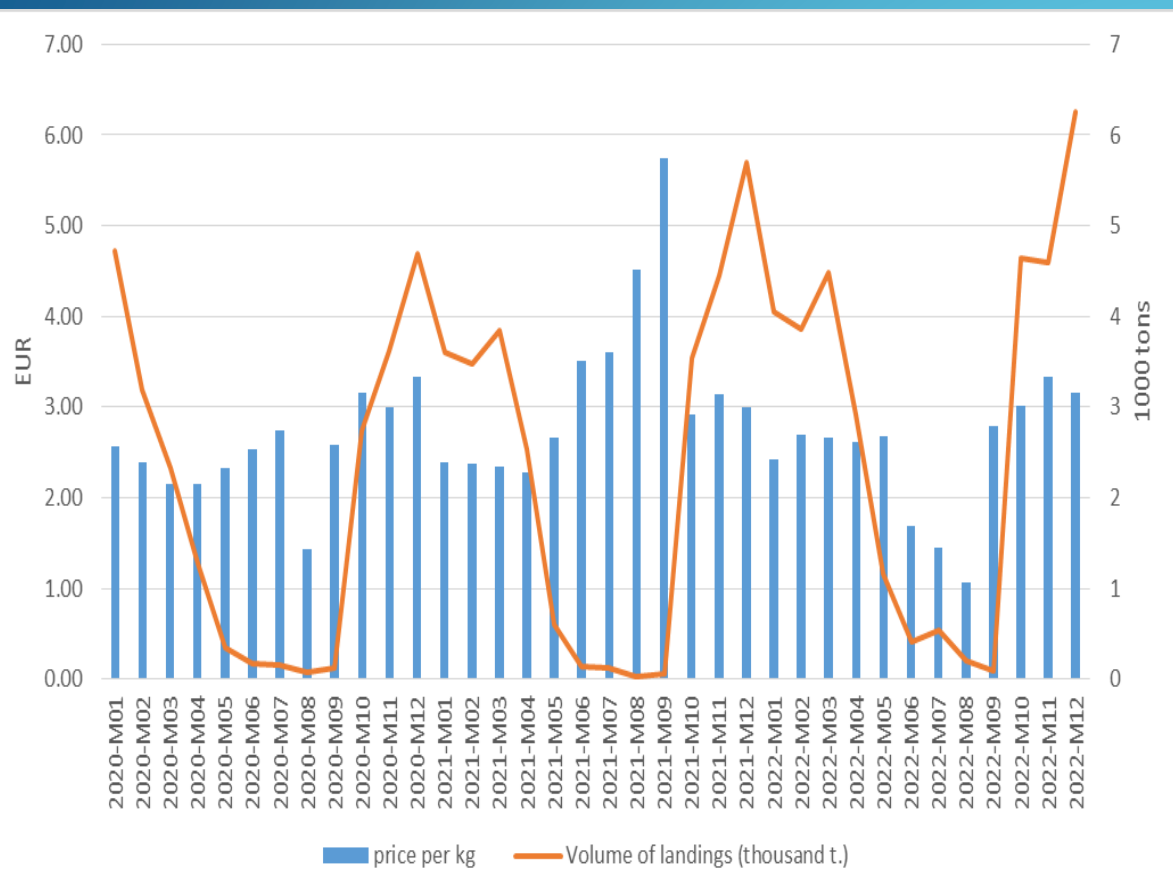


ICES INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE EXPLORATION OF THE SEA  
CIEM CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL POUR L'EXPLORATION DE LA MER

- Data, and particularly fisheries independent data, collected through national schemes, with no way of accessing this data
- Partial data is shared with ICES WGSCALLOP
- No agreed model for the assessment of stock status currently
- Suitable assessment models could follow similar approaches as used by France or ICES guidelines for assessing data-limited stocks
- Scope for more complex modelling approaches (catch at age) if data sources can be integrated
- Absence of data sharing agreements between the EU and UK limits the capacity to carry out quantitative assessments of the stock and/or any proposed management measures.
- ICES WGSCALLOP provides the most appropriate forum for future requests relating to stock assessment of the stocks

**STECF Conclusion – Suitable assessment models could use harvestable biomass projection from annual surveys or ICES guidelines for assessing data-limited stocks (SPiCT, Cmsy+ or length based-assessment)**

# TOR 3 – SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT



- EU landed 33.6 thousand tonnes worth €93.6 million of king scallops from the English Channel in 2020
- Channel is the main area for catches of king scallop in the EU accounting for over 93% of the total landings by Member States
- The fishery at EU level employs 461 persons in full time equivalents, with an average annual gross remuneration of about €92,000
- It generates almost €64 million in GVA, €21.5 million in gross profits and €10 million in operational profits

**STECF Conclusion – The protocol developed by STECF previously would be the most appropriate way of carrying out an impact assessment of future management measures**

# FINAL REMARKS



## STECF

- Valuable insights and context
- Identified gaps and limitations of data
- Define appropriate procedures and methods for improving the data
- Considered existing and potential management measures
- Plan for carrying out an IA for future management measures

## UK Scallop FMP

- Management measures for UK scallop fisheries
- Published in December 2023
- Identifies existing management measures
- Exploring and developing an overarching management framework
- Reviewed every 6 years