

SSF in Danish Waters

Presentation at webinar Partners. Preparing for the future: Small-scale Fisheries (SSF) Digitalisation in the Baltic Sea and Northern Sea arranged by Fish-X Consortium, 27th of October 2023.



- FSK-PO: Danish Small-Scale Fishermen's Producer Organisation
- Organize small scale vessels: set nets, pot, pound nets, hook, Danish anchored seine
- Founded in 2014
- Recognized as PO in September 2019
- Around a 100 members across DK

IMPORTANT MILESTONES

- Low impact fishing defined in DK law (2016)
- State label Low impact caught fish (2020)
- More quota to low impact fishermen (2016)

DK small scale fisheries

Around 200 commercially active SSF in DK. Total 676 SFF vessels, aprox 37 % of total fleet.

SSF in DK historically caught cod as a main target species.

Today SFF fishes a wider variety: Plaice (still important), haddock, sole, turbot, makrel, garfish, as well as snails, edible crab/brown crabcrabs, lobsters and prawns. Eel use to be important, but with EU closing period eel fishing is (currently) small.

SFF lands 4 % of total Danish landings, but in landing value 17% of total revenue.



Monitoring – currently (SFF)



Last ten years SFF fishermen had camera to monitor bycatch and investigate measures for bycatch reduction (currently 17 fishermen)

Since 2020 8+ SFF below 10 metres has fished with Black Box. A project between DTU Aqua and FSK-PO. Important that fishermen in the project had full control over data – secured via contract.

Mussel fishery: electronic monitoring is mandator. Where the fishermen is fishing, speed and and also registration if the gear is in use.

SFF – under pressure

- Fewer fish - fish moving away from the coast
- Seal/cormorants
- Better in North Sea, but here competition with large scale vessels (e.g. beam trawlers from BL and NL)
- Rules and regulations – non predictable



Future... No brainer: More fish in the sea



But also...

- Improve conditions: quotas, access to waters, new business-models, sales
- SSF should be seen and promoted as the future and not the past by civil servants and the politicians
- Secure a young generation of fishermen and women - that see a future in a green and small scale primary production with the ocean as a partner.
- Development and innovation in gear, vessels, working conditions, sales and logistics (green CO2 neutral future)
- New rules need to be implemented in a way that is suitable and easy and cheap to implement in SSF. New control rules: cheap, easy to use, not too fast.
- Not one size fits all.



Thank you for your attention



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