

De minimis exemptions

Hake caught with trawls in directed fisheries in ICES subareas VIII and IX

France

All French bottom trawlers and seiners with hake authorization are interested in this de minimis exemption. It represents around 600 vessels.

To answer to point b) (“Non Spanish data”), you will find hereunder landings and discards data for 2016 (source: STECF).

Country	Exemption applied for (species, area, gear type)	Species as bycatch or target	Number of vessels subject to the landing obligation	Landings (by landing obligation subject vessels)	Estimated Discards	Estimated Catch	Discard Rate	Estimated 5% de minimis
FR	Hake ICES 8 and 9 Bottom trawls	Target and Bycatch	Around 600 vessels	17152.68 t	2354.32 t	19507t	12%	975.35 t

7% in 2019-2020, 6% in 2021 of the total annual by catches of pelagic species (horse mackerel, mackerel, anchovy, boarfish) caught with bottom trawls in ICES 8 and 9

France

All French trawlers fishing in areas 8 and 9 are interested in this exemption. It represents around 615 vessels.

OBSMER program (observers at sea) sampled on average 0.2% of the trips and 12% of the vessels for these fisheries. The main métiers involved are:

- Nephrops trawlers in the Bay of Biscay: 16.3% of vessels (28 over 172 vessels) and 0.2% of fishing trips (35 over 17 337 trips)
- Mixed bottom trawlers: 7.2% of vessels (26 over 360 vessels) and 0.2% of fishing trips (42 over 18 716 trips)

3% of the total annual by catches of pelagic species (horse mackerel, mackerel, anchovy, boarfish) caught by gillnetters in ICES 8 and 9 and COPACE 34.1.1, 34.1.2, 34.2.0

France

All French gillnetters fishing in areas 8 and 9 are interested in this exemption. It represents around 267 vessels.

OBSMER program (observers at sea) sampled on average 1% of the trips and 20% of the vessels for these fisheries. The main métiers involved are:

- Gillnetters in the Bay of Biscay under 15 meters length: 23.5% of vessels (100 over 426 vessels) and 0.6% of fishing trips (187 over 32 016 trips)

- Gillnetters in the Bay of Biscay over 15 meters length: 16.4% of vessels (12 over 73 vessels) and 1.3% of fishing trips (47 over 3 513 trips) See document attached

1% of the total annual by catches of pelagic species (horse mackerel, mackerel, anchovy, boarfish) caught by hookers and liners in ICES 8 and 9 and COPACE 34.1.1, 34.1.2, 34.2.0

5% of the total annual catches of megrim, anglerfish, plaice, whiting and pollack made by bottom trawls in ICES 8 and 9

France

All French trawlers fishing in areas 8 and 9 are interested in this exemption. It represents around 615 vessels.

4% of the total annual catches of megrim, anglerfish, plaice, whiting and pollack made by gillnetters in ICES 8 and 9

France

All French gillnetters fishing in areas 8 and 9 are interested in this exemption. It represents around 267 vessels.

1% of total annual by catches of species regulated with TAC and quota made by the artisanal fleet in ICES 8 and 9 and COPACE 34.1.1, 34.1.2, 34.2.0

The SWW group proposes to replace “artisanal fleet” by “vessels up to 25 meters length overall”, as it is already stated in the R(CE) 2018/190 for example to define artisanal fishery in the pelagic discard ban for NWW (same in R(CE) 2018/189 for North Sea).

High survivability exemption:

Skates and rays

France

All French trawlers, netters or longliners are interested in this high survivability exemption: over 1000 vessels.

ENSURE, a French program started in 2014 and that will end in 2018, studies the survivability of discards made by trawls and trammel nets in the Channel and in the Bay of Biscay. The preliminary results show a high potential of survivability for skates and rays, sole, plaice and seabass. It highlights the influence of air temperature on the survivability of skates and rays.

Discard data (do not take into account *Raja undulata*) are the following, based on OBSMER (observers at sea) program:

- Trawls: skates and rays represent 13.4% of catches. Discards represent 37.4% of skates and rays catches.
- Nets: skates and rays represent 1.4% of catches. Discards represent 28% of skates and rays catches.
- Hooks and lines: skates and rays represent 0.2% of catches. Discards represent 100% of skates and rays catches. These data are only for *Raja microocellata*.