North Sea study – Technical Interaction DST Description

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In the North Sea Mixed Demersal case study, traditional management, given fixed quota shares, has been compared with two MSY scenarios (based on maximising total caught weight and value respectively), and with one MEY scenario, based on maximising the total Net Present Value (discounted profit) for the total fishery over the time period considered (five years). All scenarios assume the landings obligation has been implemented, i.e. all catches are landed and sold. As illustrated in the DST, the comparison revealed that it is more profitable to pursue MEY compared to both traditional management and MSY. The reasons being: (i) traditional management is constrained by being subject to fixed fleet shares of the quotas based on historical landing shares, and (ii) MSY management does not take into account the costs. MEY on the other hand allows flexible fleet quota shares, and reallocates quotas to minimise effort and thus costs. The reduced effort comes at the price of reduced employment. Thus realistic scenarios should lie somewhere in between MSY and MEY acknowledging both the costs of fishing but also the costs of reducing effort and thus employment opportunities.