



Ministry of Agriculture,  
Nature and Food Quality

# Roadmap skates and rays



## Exemption for skates and rays

- › Proposal was included in the joint recommendation in May 2018 on basis of high survivability.
- › Discussions in June, July and August (STECF, Commission, regional group).
- › Exemption now on a temporary basis until 31 December 2021
- › Exemption for cuckoo ray until 31 December 2019
- › Roadmap by 31 October 2018

### Essence

- › Fill data gaps in all areas, métiers and species
- › Define and implement best practices at fleet level





# Filling data gaps

## Goals

- > Lead, complete and disseminate gap analysis to identify where discard survival evidence is missing or requires strengthening
- > Agree priority data needs within Regional Group and generate new robust evidence to enhance understanding of discard survival of skates and rays, including:
  1. Identify and understand factors influencing discard survival
  2. Produce new directly observed estimates of discard survival (incl Cuckoo ray)
  3. Utilising all available data on discard estimates in the stock assessments to provide context to future exemptions





# Define and implement best practices at fleet level

## Goals

- The Advisory Councils will coordinate and oversee the development of a program of measures - for fleets requesting to use the exemption - that describe steps and actions taken to minimise discard mortality of skates and rays and improve data on discard levels
- Actions may include spatial/temporal avoidance measures, gear selectivity enhancements that either avoid unwanted catches or improve survival chances, and/or modifying catch handling practices to improve discard survival chances
- The program of measures is to be submitted on 1 May to the regional groups.





## Responsibility of the regional group

- > Sign-off agreed Road Map
- > Oversee delivery of Road Map
- > Commission and chart science and research to fill the data gaps identified as necessary to support extension to temporary exemption
- > Work with Advisory Council to develop and promote delivery of program of measures
- > Oversee reporting and submission to EU Commission, through Joint Recommendation process and annual report at the end of the year.



## Next steps

- > Meetings and follow up between member states to agree substance and process of filling data gaps, goals and delivery deadlines. (special focus on cuckoo ray).
- > Coordinate between work done in different regional groups.
- > Work with the advisory councils to ensure a program of measures implementing best practices will be submitted successfully.
- > Reap benefits of the work done in previous years through regular international expert dialogue meetings.

