



Opinion 85: Electronic Logbook and prior notification

Addressees: European Commission, European Parliament, Council of Ministers

Context:

EU Regulation No. 1224/2009 has made it compulsory to declare catches electronically, and lays down different timetables according to the size of the boats. In addition to this obligation, it also extended the necessity for prior notification; shipowners are, under certain conditions, now bound to declare their catches at least 4 hours before the time at which they will return to the port. These obligations have come into effect and are now being applied. They have however caused a number of problems, sometimes resulting in a deterioration in the quality of the data declared and in other cases, in safety problems. These two problems have arisen from the fact that the prior notification period is too long and much longer than the length of the trip between the last fishing zone and the home port of these boats. Depending on the type of tide, strict compliance with this new obligation can mean up to 25% more time at sea, which is not acceptable for the crews. It is important to underline the fact that boats longer than 12 metres operating only in coastal waters are not suitable for the installation of electronic logbook equipment.

Recommendation:

Based on these observations, the members of SWW RAC recommend that the EU "Monitoring" regulation No. 1224/2009 should be amended on the following point:

- All fishing vessels that are less than 15 metres in length, making fishing trips of less than 24 hours, should not be subject to the electronic transmission of their fishing data, or to the obligation of prior notification. Even when they are carrying out fishing operations on a stock which is managed by a management plan. The captains of fishing vessels that are less than 15 metres in length are however obliged to record their catches in the paper Logbook.

Origin of the opinion: Traditional fishing working group
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