

Gear trials in Skagerrak

A “new” pelagic grid



SLU Aqua

Andreas Sundelöf, **Hans Nilsson**, Daniel Valentinsson, Mikael Ovegård,
Anders Wernbo, Joakim Hjelm

SPFPO, Carmona GG 330

The problem

- **During autumn Saithe** at times appears pelagic in Skagerrak
- Hence, there is **by-catch** of Saithe in the Herring fishery (Aug-Sept)
- **No specific quota** for Saithe in the Swedish pelagic system (ITQs)

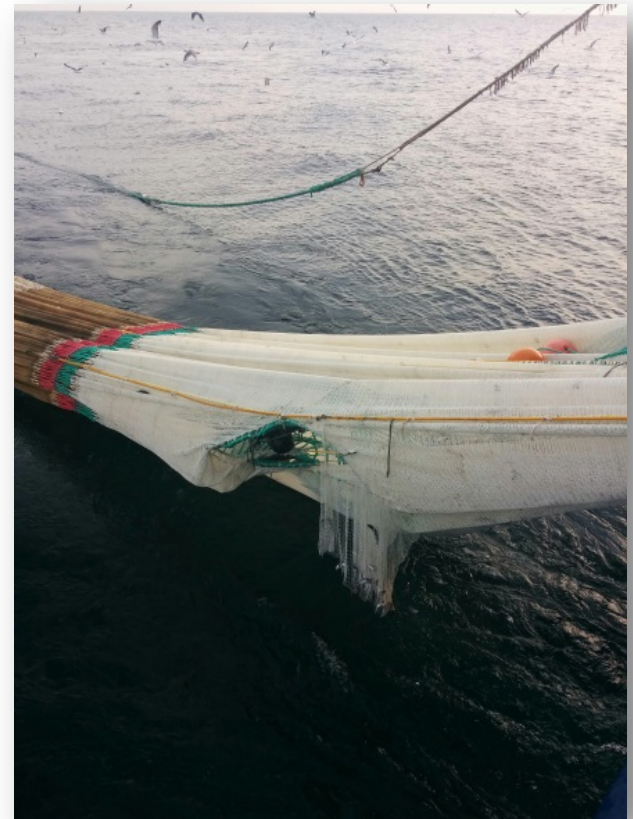


the Swedish Secretariat for Selective Fishing (SfSF)

- The main background was the need for a **larger toolbox** of documented and **workable gears** for the industry to choose from when the **landing obligation in EU fisheries** is being implemented
- **Between 2014 and 2017** the Swedish government has set aside special funding for **collaborative research** between **industry and science** on selective fishing gears
- Commissioned by the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water management (SwAM), the Swedish University for Agricultural Sciences (SLU Aqua), **established a Secretariat for selective fishing**

Conditions

- The **SPFPO** contacted the Swedish **Secretariat for Selective Fishing**, and with a **potential solution** they wanted to test
- **Grids in pelagic gear** have been used in **Blue whiting and Norway pout fisheries** in Faeroe Islands and Norway
- **Not extensively tested** or evaluated in other fisheries
- Gear trials **supported** by SfSF and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (**SWaM**)



Setting up the Saithe grid

3.0x3.6m (50mm barspacing)



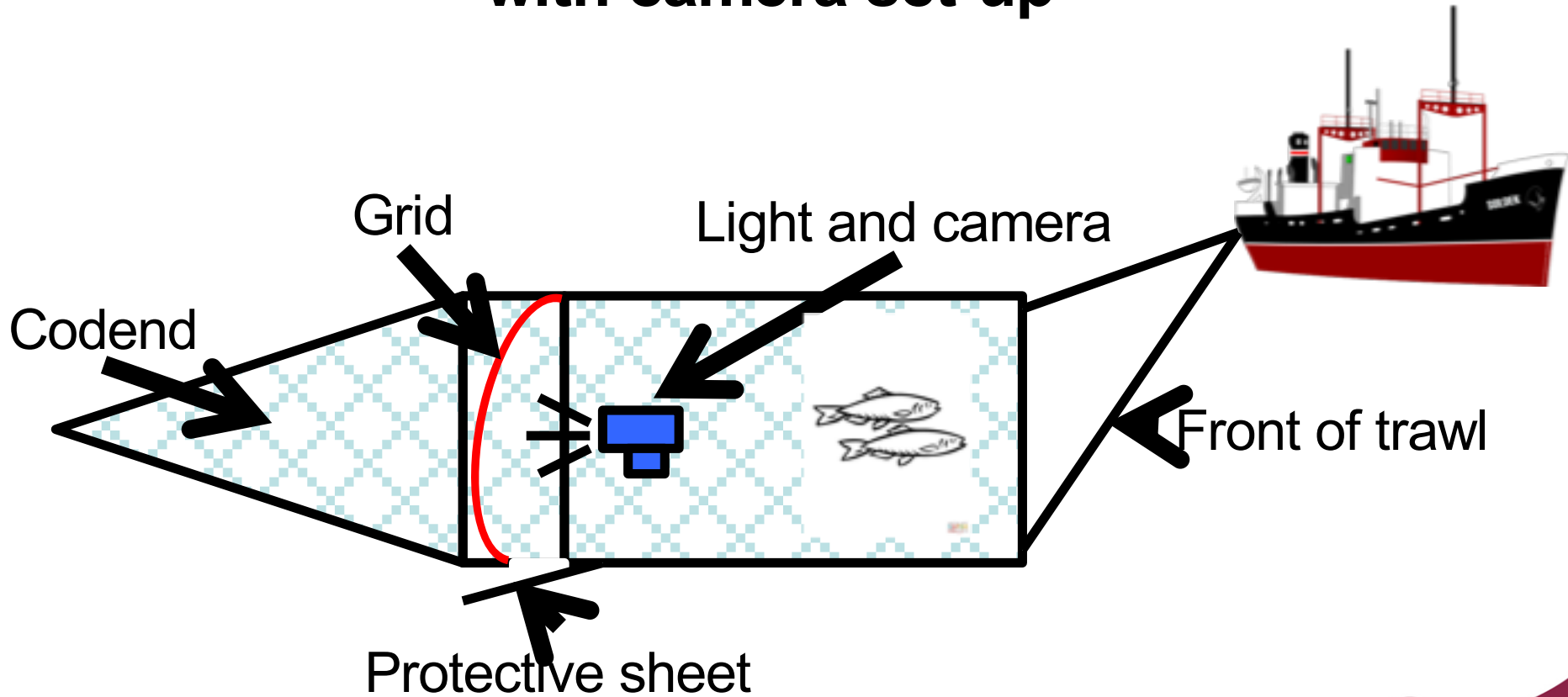
Gear trials

The light
and camera



- **Not** possible to use **catch-comparison** methodology
- **Camera** used for observations/**quantitative evaluation**
- Experimental work in **2015 and 2016** on-board **GG330 Carmona**

Schematic presentation grid with a protective sheet with camera set-up



Initial trials

- **Cameras**; finding the **angle and position** of cameras for good footage
- **Grid set up; angle and position**

Objectives

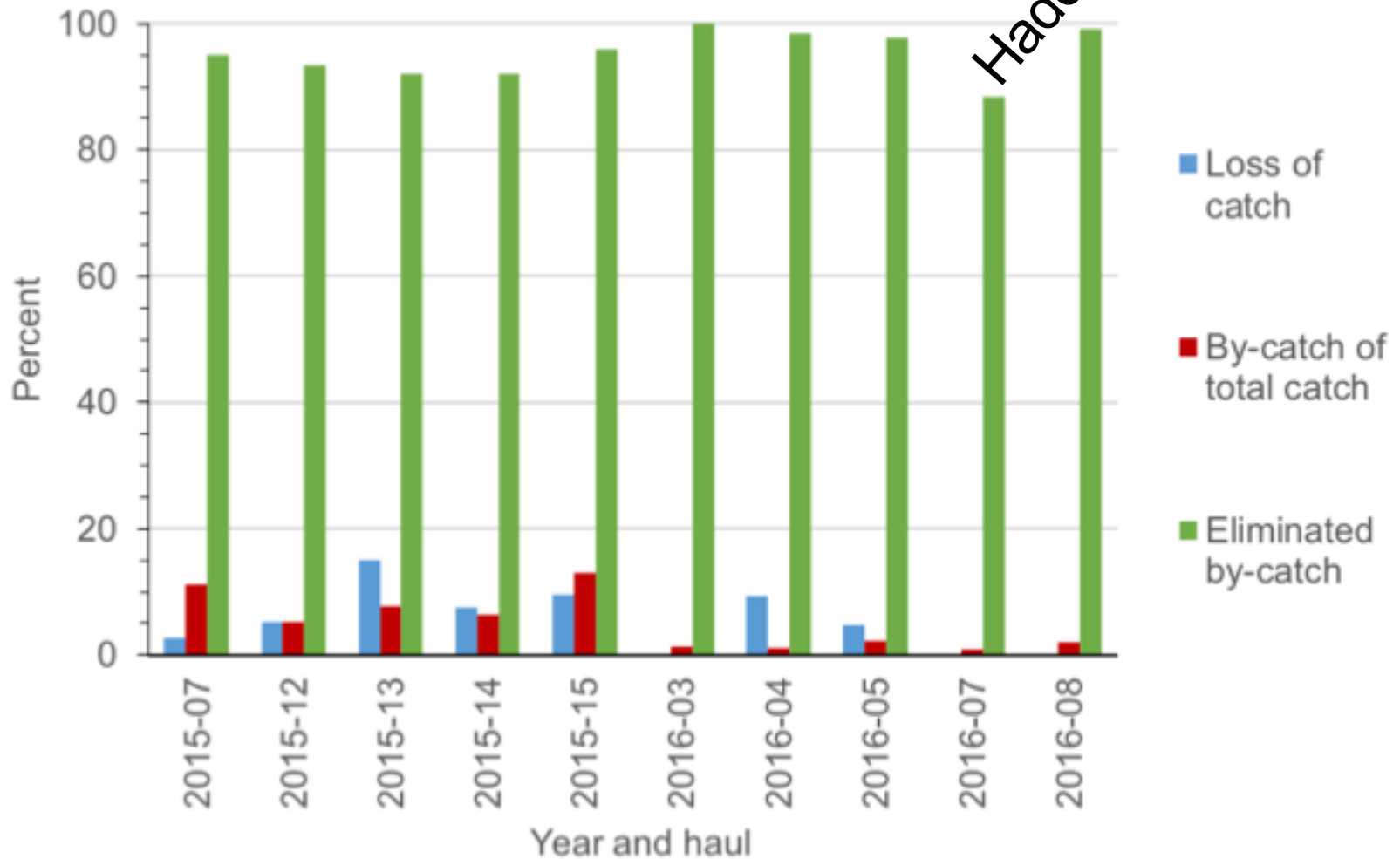
- Minimize **Saithe by-catch**
- Minimize **loss of Herring**

Differences between years

- **Grid material - stiffer**
- **Grid set up; angle, fastening of the lower part and position**
- **Escape opening - bigger**

Results

Haddock



Conclusion

- **98% elimination** of unwanted **by-catch** (Saithe)
5-10% loss of catch of Herring
- New stiffer material rejected fish > 53 cm to go through the grid
- Optimal size of exit. Increased size of exit facilitated the release of Saithe without affecting catch efficiency of Herring
- Already implemented by Swedish vessels
- First example of fisher-led implementation of major gear adaptation in response to LO?