

## Threshold value for reporting catches on the GFCM logbook – Effects of different values on the estimation of catches per species.

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## Background

The GFCM, in its 2010 session, adopted (Rec. GFCM/34/2010/1) a GFCM logbook to be filled by masters of fishing vessels over 15 meters, from 1st of January 2013. In the recommendation, it is also stipulated that the minimum quantity [to be reported on the logbook] shall be without prejudice to stricter rules implemented by Members and may be adjusted in the light of further work to be undertaken under the GFCM framework.

In order to progress on the issue, the GFCM Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information (SCSI) suggested, during its last session, its members to undertake an analysis on the effects of various thresholds on the quality of reporting the catches by species, from the information available in the different countries (sales notes, on-board observers, ...).

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## Methodology

Information from 457 on-board observations, and 5 years of auction data in the french Mediterranean harbours.

The idea is to test threshold variations from 1 to 50 kilos on comprehensive landings estimated from on-board observations or registered in auction sales notes. The differences in total volume, volume per species and number of species to report per trip is further discussed with the objective of finding a threshold value having the minimal impact on these three parameters.

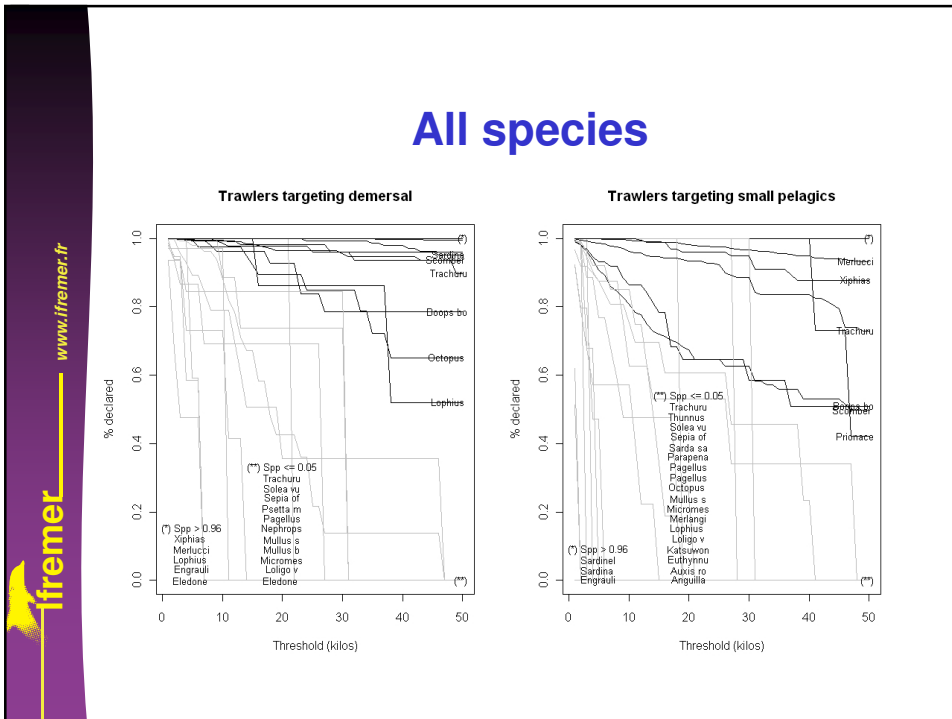
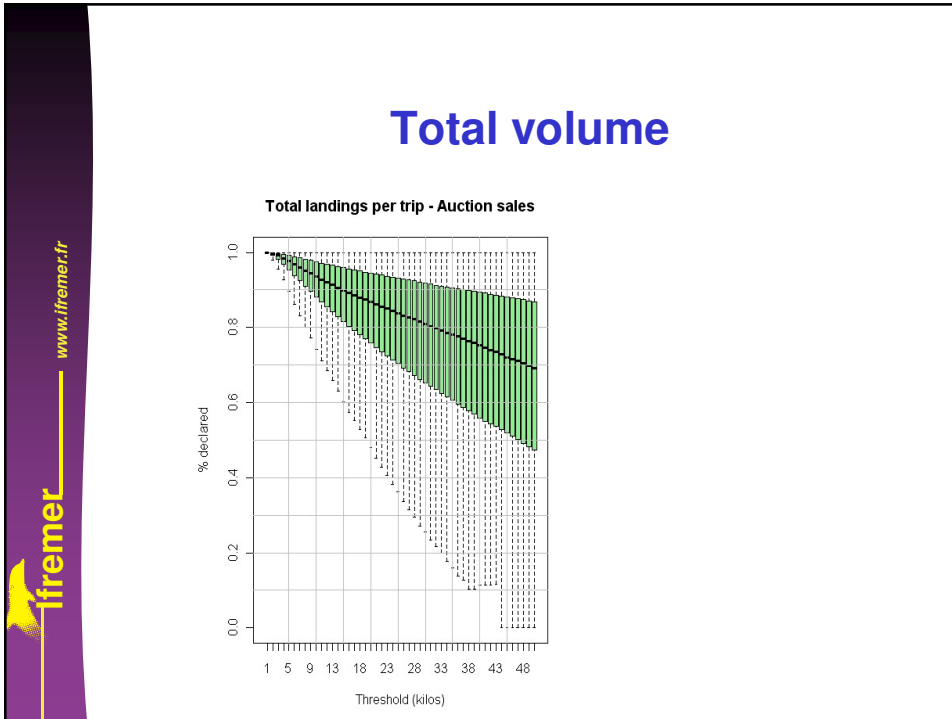
The methodology used was to create a variable (y) taking the value = 0 if the total landed part of the species for that trip was inferior to the threshold and the value = landed volume in kilos, otherwise. All inferences were made based on the y variable.

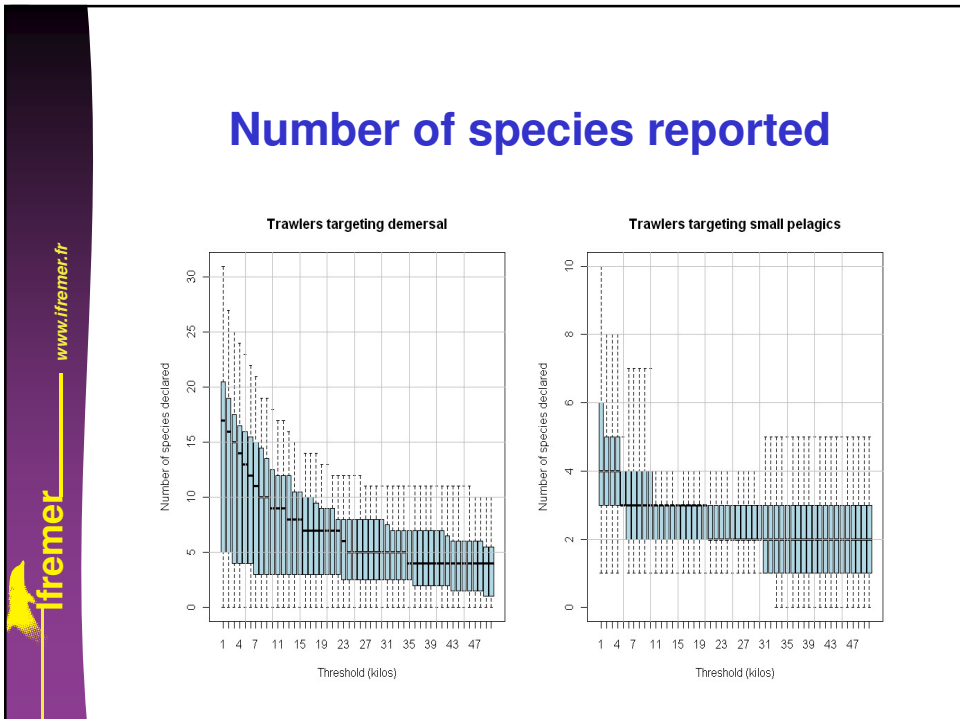
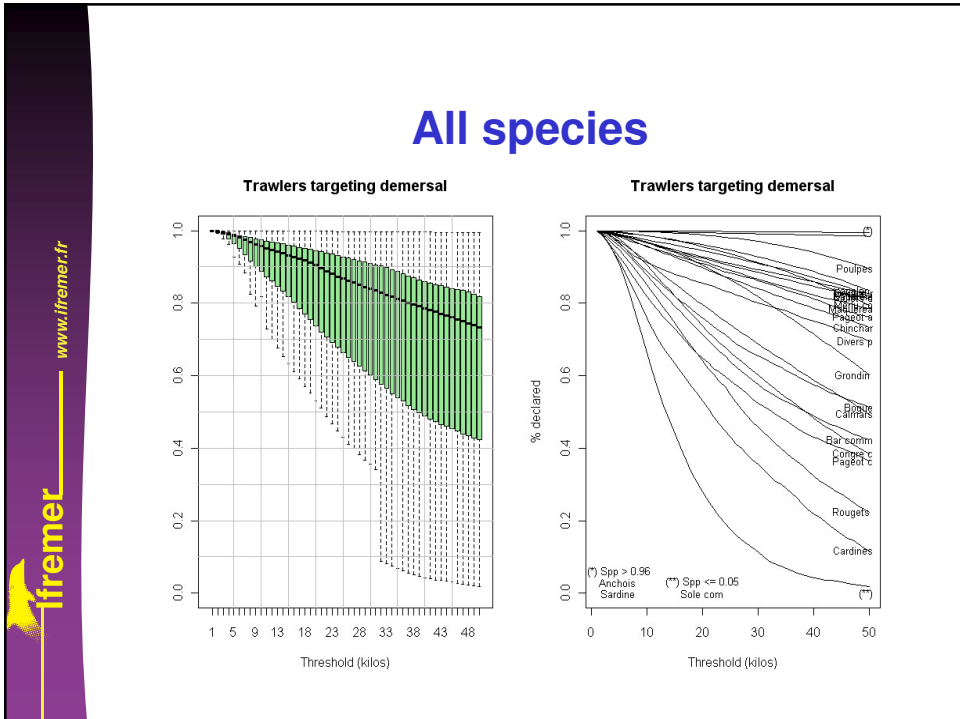
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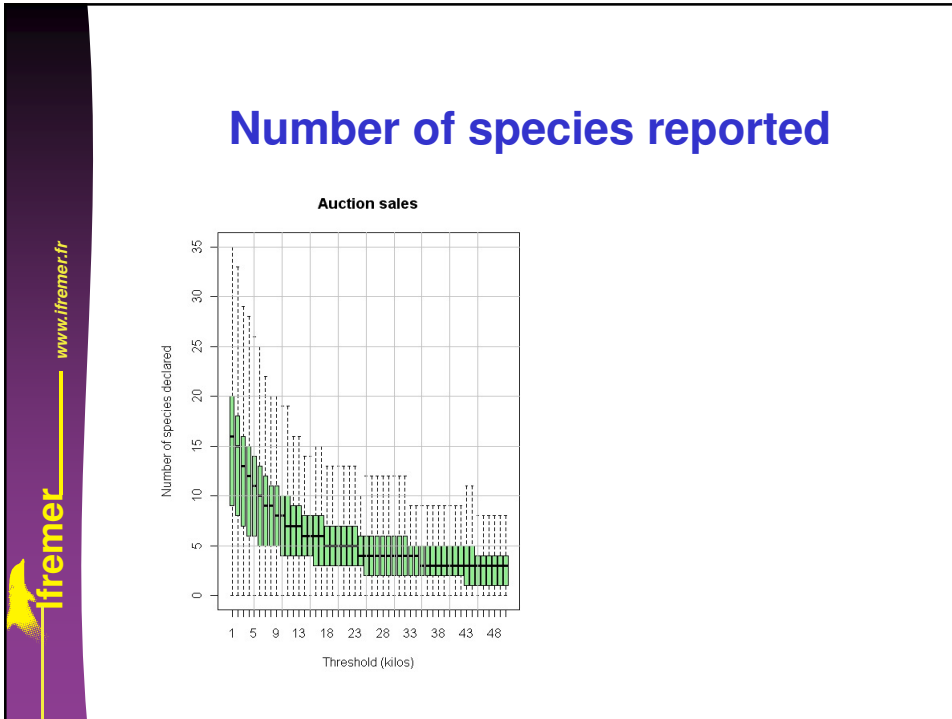
## Total volume

**Trawlers targeting demersal**

**Trawlers targeting small pelagics**







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## Conclusions

**Total volume**  
Small pelagics metiers

- not affected by threshold (survey)

**Demersal :**

- Threshold of 30 kilos => loss of 10% (survey)

**Vessels > 15 m.**

- Threshold of 15 kilos = loss of 10% (auction)

## Conclusions

### Statistics per species

Demersal trawlers :

- *Xiphias gladius*, *Merluccius merluccius*, *Eledone spp.* & *Lophius spp.* Not affected by threshold
- *Scomber scombrus*, *Trachurus trachurus* & *Octopus vulgaris* almost not affected with a threshold < 15 – 20 kilos

Pelagic trawlers

- *Sardinella*, *Sardina pilchardus* & *Engraulis encrasicolus* not affected by threshold
- *Merluccius merluccius*, *Trachurus trachurus* & *Xiphias gladius* almost not affected with a threshold < 15 – 20 kilos

Auction sales

- Threshold = 10 kilos => 90% of all species
- Threshold = 20 kilos => Important species are accounted for less than 80% of the reality

## Conclusions

### Number of species reported

Trawlers targeting small pelagics still not impacted

For trawlers targeting demersal, only a threshold over 20 kilos reduces the number of species to report to less than 14.

In the auction, a maximum of 15 species can be reported when threshold > 15 kilos, reducing to 12 species with a threshold > 25 kilos.

### Final recommendation

Threshold should be equal or less than 25 kilos

For the french fisheries, a value of 15 kilos would be the best compromise.