

Agenda Item 14.3

Implementation of the ASCOBANS Triennial
Work Plan (2007-2009)

Review of New Information on Bycatch and
Other Causes of Mortality

Document 16

**Information Submitted by Parties on
Fishing Effort
a) Belgium**

Action Requested

- take note of the information submitted
- comment

Submitted by

Parties



NOTE:
**IN THE INTERESTS OF ECONOMY, DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED TO BRING THEIR OWN
COPIES OF DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING**

Secretariat's Note

Attached is, as separate documents in order to minimise the need for revisions, the information submitted by Parties on fishing effort in relevant fisheries, as submitted by the ASCOBANS Parties.

**Collection and provision of fishing effort data
within the ASCOBANS Agreement area**

BELGIUM

Professional fisheries

Respondent	Jan Haelters, Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences, Management Unit of the North Sea Mathematical Models, Gulledele 100, 1200 Brussels, Belgium
Number of gillnet fishing vessels	3 professional active in 2007 (1 only part-time gillnetting); a 4 th launched in 2007, but only active from 2008 onwards (part-time gillnetting).
Port	Ostend: 2 vessels (+ 1 from 2008 onwards), Nieuwpoort: 1 vessel.
Min. – max. length of net	2 vessels: 5-6 km, 1 vessel: 15-20 km
Days hauling and soak time	Number of fishing days: 180 (but one only part-time gillnetting). Soak time: 6–12 hrs
ICES Area	Mostly IVc (only 1 vessel occasionally active in VIIId)
Target species	Mixed fishery, but in spring mainly sole, and during the rest of the year sole, plaice, turbot, brill, cod, bass (and other species that can be commercialised).
Gear	Trammel net, ‘nylon’; mesh size 90-100 mm; height: around 1 m, hanging ratio around 0.6. Deployed mainly for sole. Trammel net, ‘monofilament’; mesh size 90-100 mm; height: around 1 m, hanging ratio around 0.5. Deployed mainly for sole, but high catch of plaice, turbot, brill, ... Single wand monofilament; mesh size 120–160 mm; height: 3 to 5 m; hanging ratio: 1; target species: cod, bass (different mesh sizes for those species).

Recreational fisheries

Fishing effort	Only nets set from the beach at low tide; in total between 2 and 10 km of net along the shoreline. Effort from September until June, but concentrated from March to May.
Gear	Single wand gillnet and <i>Danish system</i> ; hanging ratio: 1 to 0.5; mesh size: 90–100 mm.
Target species	March – May: mainly sole (and other species such as plaice); rest of the year: sole, cod, other flatfish, ...
ICES Area	IVc