Annex D
Economic impact

The application of the Discard Plan has had positive effects on the clam biomass available to fishing but also on the economic performance of the sector. In fact, considering that the daily fishing hours have halved compared to 2016, that the trawled areas per day have been reduced, it has been easier to manage the fishing activity and conserve the resource in areas left at rest.

The direct result was that the daily fishing hours decreased in 2017 and 2018.The return to a minimum reference size for conservation of 25 mm would imply negative implications for the sector in economic terms, but also for the environment, since the boats should dredge the bottom for a much longer time to reach the daily quota, as can be seen from the fishing effort data.

In the 2018 samples of the length frequency distributions of commercial clams (after the first sieving process) were collected from case studies at a Consortium level. Length-weight relationship were used to estimate the weight of each length (a=0.00053; b=2.77). This enabled to estimate the weight of each size to the total weight of sample. Therefore, for each month, we estimated the weight of each length on the total weight of landings. We considered a mean price of around 2.2 euros/kg.

The analysis, summarized in Table 11, shows that clams below 25 mm represent around 80% of the total. Therefore, coming back to a MCRS of 25 mm would imply a significant economic loss. Fishermen will be obliged to catch a bigger amount of clams of 25 mm and so to increase the fishing effort consistently to maintain revenues.

Table 1. Revenues obtained on a monthly basis for each size class. Case study center of the Adriatic.

March

Landings	208500 kg		
Length (mm)	Weight %		Economic Loss
10	0	0	62%
11	0	0	
12	0	0	
13	0	0	
14	0	0	
15	0	0	
16	0	0	
17	0	0	
18	0	0	
19	0	0	
20	0	0	
21	2	0	
22	8	34,933	
23	22	98,776	
24	32	147,858	
25	25	115,783	
26	10	44,632	
27	2	9,374	
28	0	0	
29	0	0	
30	0	0	
		451,356	

May

Landings	315303 kg		
Length (mm)	Weight %		Economic Loss
10	0	0	82%
11	0	0	
12	0	0	
13	0	0	
14	0	0	
15	0	0	
16	0	0	
17	0	0	
18	0	0	
19	0	0	
20	0	0	
21	4	0	
22	15	105,673	
23	31	213,939	
24	32	219,192	
25	12	85,826	
26	4	30,213	
27	0	1,863	
28	0	2,061	
29	0	0	
30	0	0	
		658,768	

June

Landings	292515 kg		
Length (mm)	Weight %		Economic Loss
10	0	0	61%
11	0	0	
12	0	0	
13	0	0	
14	0	0	
15	0	0	
16	0	0	
17	0	0	
18	0	0	
19	0	0	
20	0	0	
21	1	0	
22	9	57,001	
23	23	146,592	
24	28	183,067	
25	25	161,473	
26	9	56,049	
27	3	19,146	
28	2	10,588	
29	0	0	
30	0	0	
		633,916	

July

Landings	319448 kg		
Length (mm)	Weight %		Economic Loss
10	0	0	85%
11	0	0	
12	0	0	
13	0	0	
14	0	0	
15	0	0	
16	0	0	
17	0	0	
18	1	0	
19	1	0	
20	5	0	
21	12	0	
22	22	156,521	
23	24	169,333	
24	22	156,963	
25	8	59,393	
26	3	20,268	
27	0	3,000	
28	0	0	
29	0	0	
30	0	0	
		565,478	

August

Landings	260133 kg			
Length (mm)	Weight %			Economic Loss
10	0	€	-	88%
11	0	€	-	
12	0	€	-	
13	0	€	-	
14	0	€	-	
15	0		0	
16	0		0	
17	0		0	
18	0		0	
19	1		0	
20	5		0	
21	11		0	
22	22		123,370	
23	30		168,880	
24	21		121,957	
25	9		52,058	
26	1		5,046	
27	0		1,867	
28	0		0	
29	0		0	
30	0		0	
			473,177	

September

Landings	203850 kg			
Length (mm)	Weight %			Economic Loss
10	0	€	-	88%
11	0	€	-	
12	0	€	-	
13	0	€	-	
14	0	€	-	
15	0	€	-	
16	0	€	-	
17	0		0	
18	1		0	
19	3		0	
20	6		0	
21	16		0	
22	21		93,574	
23	26		114,655	
24	18		81,720	
25	7		29,412	
26	2		10,200	
27	0		0	
28	0		0	
29	0		0	
30	0		0	
			329,561	

October

Landings	343777 kg			
Length (mm)	Weight %			Economic Loss
10	0	€	-	99%
11	0	€	-	
12	0	€	-	
13	0	€	-	
14	0	€	-	
15	0	€	-	
16	0	€	-	
17	0	€	-	
18	0	€	-	
19	0	€	-	
20	1		0	
21	11		0	
22	35		261,587	
23	41		307,957	
24	12		89,797	
25	1		4,063	
26	0		3,397	
27	0		0	
28	0		0	
29	0		0	
30	0		0	
			666,800	

November

Landings	208500 kg			
Length (mm)	Weight %			Economic Loss
10	0	€	-	70%
11	0	€	-	
12	0	€	-	
13	0	€	-	
14	0	€	-	
15	0	€	-	
16	0	€	-	
17	0	€	-	
18	0	€	-	
19	0		0	
20	0		0	
21	0		0	
22	6		26,634	
23	26		119,796	
24	38		172,619	
25	19		89,141	
26	9		39,355	
27	2		7,646	
28	0		0	
29	0		1,331	
30	0		0	
			456,522	

December			
Landings	147220 kg		
Length (mm)	Weight %		Economic Loss
10	0	€ -	83%
11	0	€ -	
12	0	€ -	
13	0	€ -	
14	0	€ -	
15	0	€ -	
16	0	0	
17	0	202	
18	0	0	
19	0	1,098	
20	1	2,531	
21	5	16,658	
22	14	45,314	
23	33	108,560	
24	29	94,884	
25	12	37,567	
26	2	7,198	
27	2	5,812	
28	1	4,017	
29	0	0	
30	0	0	
		323,840	

Moreover, by considering a mean price for fuel of 0.6 euros/kg it is possible to see a clear decreasing trend from the entry to force of the Discard plan.

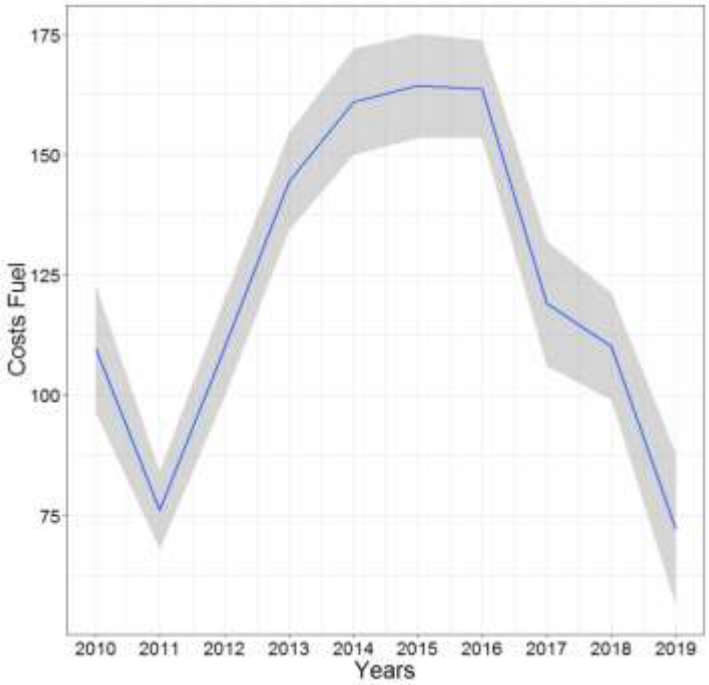

Figure 1. Costs for fuel (euros/day) in a central Adriatic case study.