

Management aspects of Swedish nephrops fishery

Swedish Agency
for Marine and
Water Management



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Presentation topics

- » Short background, Swedish nephrops fishery
- » Swedish quota management with focus on nephrops fishery
 - historical, present and suggestions for the future
- » Challenges for Swedish nephrops fisheries from a quota management perspective

Introduction

- » Continuous decrease in the number of vessels in the Swedish commercial fishing fleet. The number of vessels decreased from 1377 vessels in 2013 to 937 vessels in 2023.
- » Fishing licenses and fishing permits:
 - Anyone who wants to fish professionally in the sea and sell their catch needs a fishing license
 - In addition to fishing license, certain fishing permits are necessary when fishing for example pelagic species, cod, shrimp and nephrops (separate permits for trawl and creels)

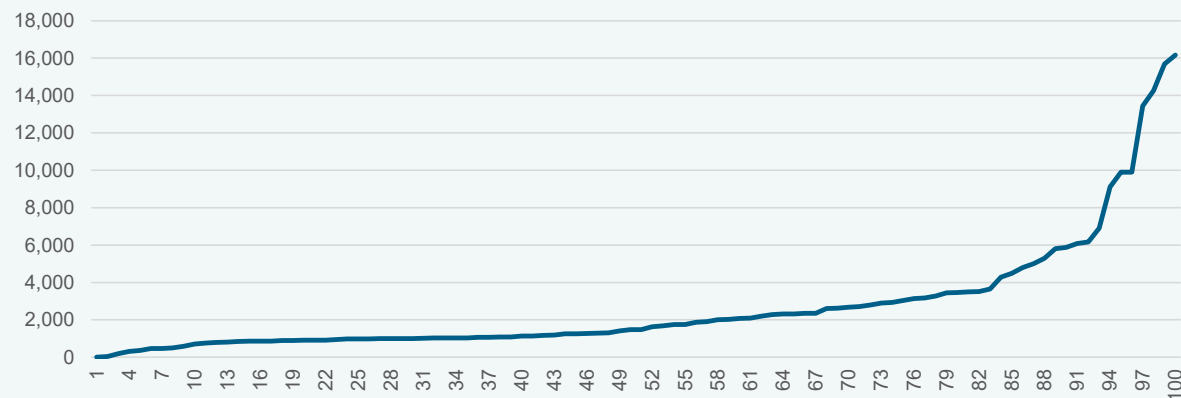
Introduction

- » Fishing methods in the Swedish nephrops fishery include trawl, trawl with grid and creels.
- » Sweden has relatively small shares of TAC for cod and other demersal fish quotas, as compared to nephrops. A relatively high degree of selective fishing methods/gears is therefore necessary in the Swedish nephrops fishery.
- » Around 110 vessels have a permit for fishing for nephrops with trawl, of which around 27 may only use grid. Common to combine with fishery after northern prawn.
- » Around 100 vessels has a fishing permit for nephrops with creels.

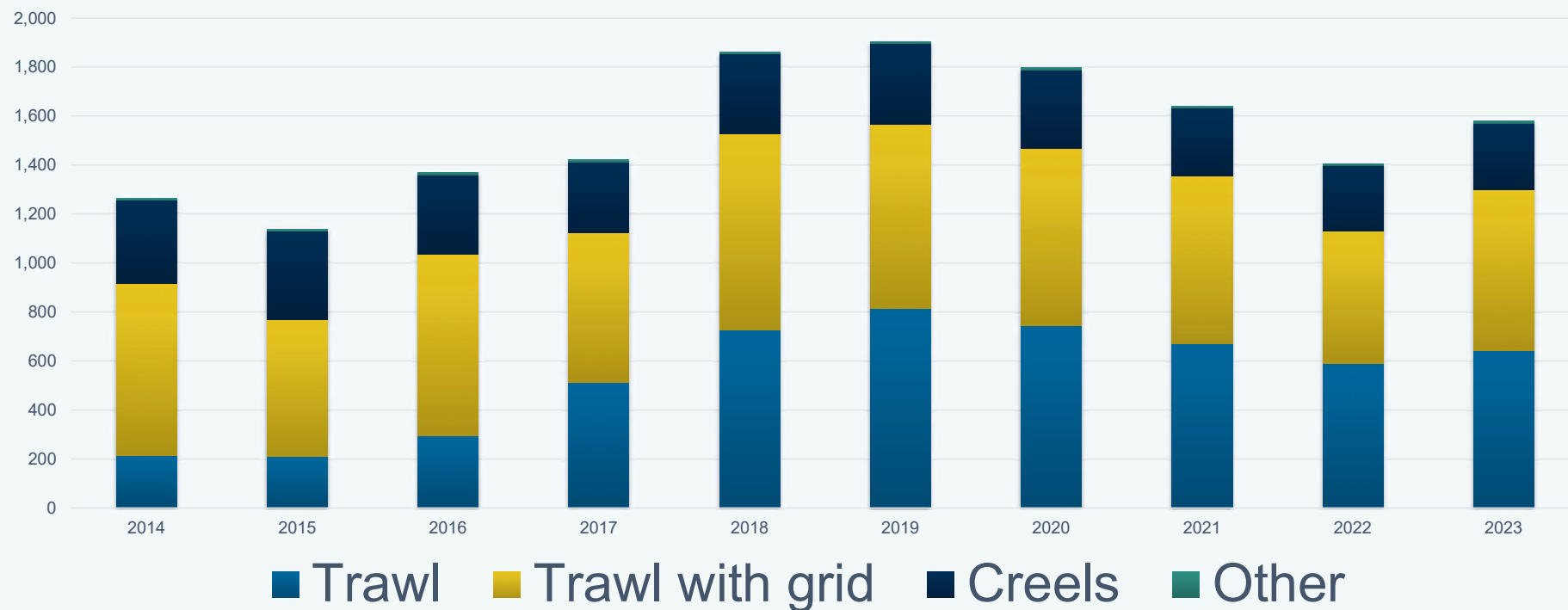
Vessels with permit for fishing nephrops with creels

- » Around 100 vessels have this permit
- » Average vessel length around 9,5 meters
- » Catches per vessel in 2023 (catches corresponding to at least 800 kg needed to get renewed permit):

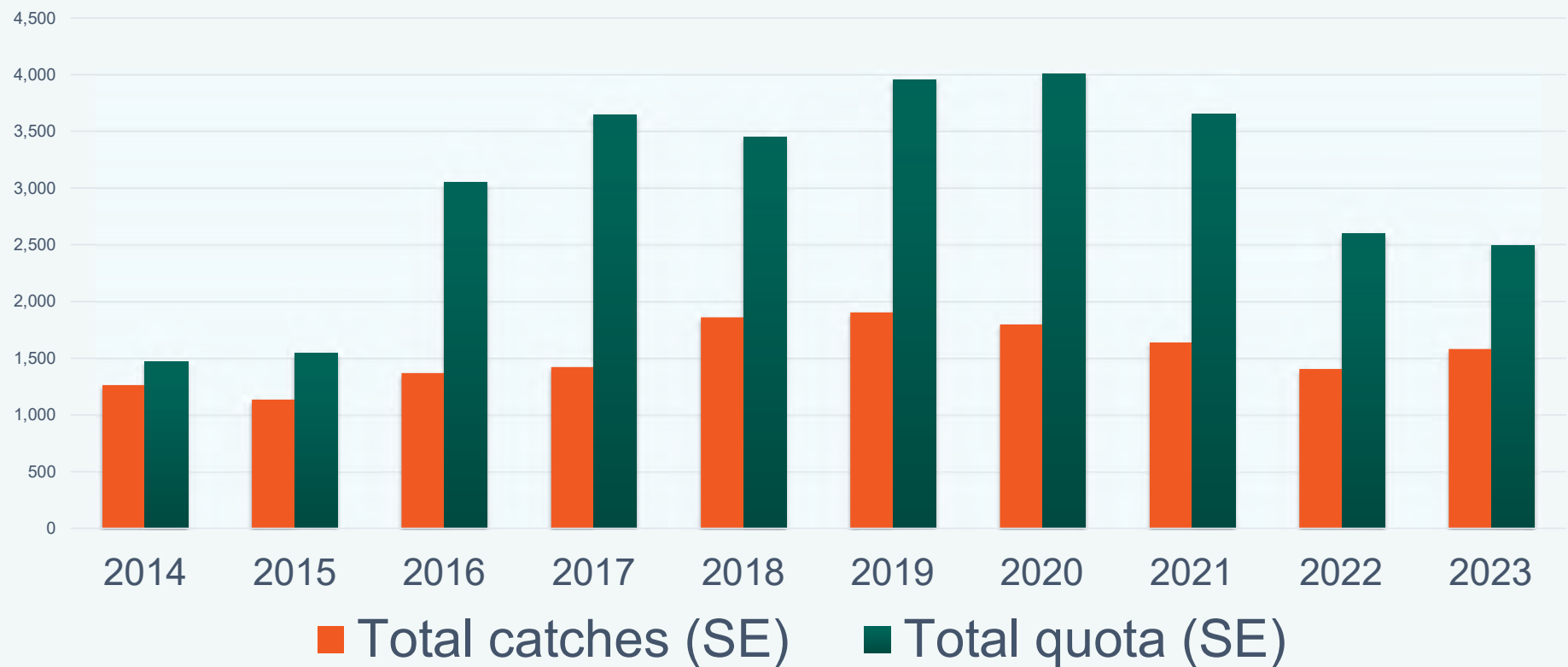
Catch of nephrops (in kg) per vessel using creels in 2023



Nephrop catches (thousand kg) by gear type



SE nephrops quota and total catches (thousand kg)



Swedish quota allocation (demersal quotas)

- » **Before 2017:** Weekly, monthly or annual catch limits.
 - not compatible with the landing obligation
 - neprophs quota was divided between gear groups: creels (around 30% of quota), trawl with grid (around 45% of quota) and trawl without grid (around 25% of quota)
 - the EU effort regime played a crucial role for fishing effort with trawl without grid

- » **Since 2017:** A system of annual individual fishing opportunities.
 - aimed to facilitate for fishermen to have the possibility for fishermen to transfer quotas in order to be able to comply with the LO
 - individual quotas transferable during the year subject to certain limitations
 - the EU effort regime was simultaneously abolished

Swedish demersal quotas

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Individual quotas

Who:

- Vessels fishing with trawl
- Vessels fishing for **nephrops with creels**
- Vessels above 10 meters using passive gears (North Sea)

Allocation principle:

- Based on historical catches during a reference period
- Some adjustments: allocations of by-catches and minimum levels

Possibility to transfer individual fishing opportunities:

- Possible during the year, must be approved by SwAM
- Constrained by maximum concentration levels

New establishments?

- Can be applied for **1 jun – 1 nov** the year before

Requirement for renewed permit and new quota allocation next year:

- Minimum level of fishing activity (800 kg for creels)

Seventeen quotas,
including nephrops S/K

Coastal quotas

Who?

- Fishing with passive gear in the North Sea below 10 meters, except those fishing for nephrops with creels
- Fishing with passive gear for cod in the Baltic Sea

How?

- Not individually allocated
- First priority in quota allocation

Evaluations of the present quota allocation system

- » Better possibilities for fishermen to plan during the year, but lock-in effects. Expectations of a future ITQ-system.
- » Changes in relative fishing effort with different gears was observed after 2017 - also affected by the simultaneous abolishment of the EU-effort regulations.
- » Quota allocation system does not solve the LO-compliance challenge.

Future introduction of an ITQ-system?

- » SwAM has proposed that an ITQ-system (**Individual Transferable Quotas**) should be introduced in the Swedish demersal fisheries, including the nephrops fishery (both creels and trawl).
- » In consultation with the producer organisations, a design of such a system has recently proposed. No legal mandate to implement the system, waiting for response on the proposal.
- » The agency believes that such a system can contribute to a simpler and more transparent allocation system with better possibilities for more profitable fishing.

Nephrops fishery in the proposed ITQ-system

- » Fishing rights (of nephrops) may not be transferred from fishermen fishing with creel to fishermen fishing with trawl
- » Fishing opportunities may however be transferred between the creel and trawl segments after a certain date (decided annually, and only annual transfers – no transfer of fishing rights). Aims to facilitate efficient quota utilization
- » New rules about a "minimum required level of quota" in order to use a certain trawl gear. This means that, in order for a fisherman to use trawl without grid, certain minimum quantities of the different bycatch quotas will be required.
- » Possible to apply for "new establishment" without having to buy fishing rights

Some challenges from a quota management perspective

- » Nephrops quota utilization:
 - Mixed fishery, unbalanced quotas and discard incentives.
 - Possible to combine high quota utilization and compliance of the landing obligation?

- » Nephrops fishery with creels:
 - Several advantages from the management perspective, such as the relatively low share of bycatches
 - How to handle the claimed "lack of space"-issue?

- » A generational renewal of fishermen needed



Thanks!

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