

**The North Sea Brown Shrimp (*Crangon crangon*) fishery**  
**Management plan for shrimp fishermen**  
**December 1 2009 – July 1 2014**

The Producers Organisation Brown Shrimp and the Dutch Fishermen's Association; Producers Organisation – PO' established the following management plan:

**1 AMBITION**

The North Sea shrimp (*C. crangon*) fishery will

1. promote and maintain a productive and sustainably managed population of North Sea brown shrimp;
2. limit as much as possible the impact of the brown shrimp fishery on the ecosystem of the brown shrimp and associated species;
3.
  - a. establish and maintain good relationships between stakeholders in the brown shrimp fishery;
  - b. maintain a good collaboration with the managing authority.

**2 OBJECTIVES**

1. An ecologically responsible and sustainable fishery, with acknowledged limited effects on the target species, the North Sea brown shrimp *Crangon crangon* as well as on the marine ecosystem of the target species;
2. An economically responsible and sustainable fishery where the co-coordinated self-regulation of the fisheries ensures continuity of the operational economy and that the fishermen can generate a fair income.

**3 DEFINITIONS**

This management defines the following terms:

AID	“Algemene Inspectie Dienst”, General Inspection Service working on behalf of the management authority.
Management Authority	The Dutch department with final responsibility of fisheries management, <i>in casu</i> the Fisheries Directorate in the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Food Quality.
Bycatch	All living organisms in the catches other than <i>Crangon crangon</i> .
Crangon Fund	Fund established for financing the running costs of the implementation of this management plan, the inspections and activities in support of this management plan, as decided by the CVO.
CVO	Co-operative Association of Fisheries, the holder of the MSC-certificate. The Producers Organisations are the members of the CVO.
Fishing Pressure	Relationship between the annual catch and the stock size of recruited shrimp (equivalent to fisheries mortality F).
Inspector Office	Organisation that carries out inspections on behalf of the CVO. Secretariat of the CVO

Participant	Signatory of this management plan, with a license for brown shrimp fishing, and member of a producers organisation that has been recognised by an EU member state and that has signed this management plan.
PO	Producers Organisation of shrimp fishermen, recognised by an EU member state and registered as such at the European Commission, and who is a member of the PO Brown Shrimp or the Dutch Fishermen's Association - PO and has signed this management plan.
PVis	Dutch Fish Product Board.
Scientific Authority	Wageningen University or an equivalent institution.
Stakeholders	Group of stakeholders as recognised by the CVO. The recognised stakeholders are PVis, Vebega, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Food Quality, North Sea Foundation, Waddensea Foundation and the World Wide Fund for Nature. The CVO can adapt this list at any given moment.
Website	Intranet website <a href="http://www.xxx">www.xxx</a> , accessible with an access code to all participants, board members, inspectors, management and scientific authorities, recognised stakeholders and all other parties who have been granted access by the GPO.

#### **4 REGULATION**

Participants shall comply with all relevant national and international regulations.

Each participant has to sign this management plan and has to be a member of a recognised Producers Organisation that has signed this management plan. The POs are responsible for the compliance of the relevant laws and regulations in this management plan by their members.

#### **5 FISHING EFFORT**

##### **5.1 Maximum number of participants**

The maximum number of vessels with licenses for North Sea brown shrimp fishing that is regulated in this management plan is:

The Netherlands: 133 GVs (general fisheries) en 92 GKs (coastal waters)

Germany: to be determined.

Denmark: to be determined.

Only fishermen with a valid fishing license for shrimp can participate in this management plan.

To prevent expansion of the fishing effort, no further license holders will be admitted into this management plan.

Membership after the initial application date of this management plan is only possible for an existing license holder. Conditions for such access are determined by the CVO.

When a participant would like to apply a new fishing technique, which according to the CVO will be more effective for shrimp fishing than the current techniques (bottom trawling with toggle), he/she can only continue to participate in this management plan when the total

fishing effort does not increase. In that case the CVO, in consultation with the POs and the stakeholders, will offer a proposal to that participant.

## 5.2 Weekend prohibition and fishing times

The shrimp fishery in Dutch waters and in the Ems area will be closed from Friday 12:00 hours until Monday 0:00 hours.

The shrimp fishery outside Dutch waters, excluding the Ems area, will only be permitted during 9 (nine) days per (14) fortnight.

When there is a method to measure the fishing times, the fishing position and the fishing effort that works properly (which means better than the current installed means VMS and AIS), will the text below be implemented with respect to article 5.2

*The shrimp fishery in Dutch waters above 52°00'00" degrees north latitude and in German waters, to the west of 7°35'00" degrees east longitude and to the south of 54°00'00" degrees north latitude, will be closed from Friday 12.00 hours until Monday 8.00 hours. The maximum allowed fishing time is 100 hours and starts at Monday 8.00 hours until Friday 12.00 hours. In figure 5.2.1 this fishing area is indicated with the blue shaded area.*

*The shrimp fishery in Dutch waters to the south of 52°00'00" degrees north latitude is closed from Friday 4.00 hours until Monday 0.00 hours. The maximum allowed fishing time is 100 hours and starts at Monday 0.00 hours until Friday 4.00 hours. The line of 52°00'00" degrees north latitude may only be crossed at Monday past 10.00 hours. In figure 5.2.1 this fishing area is indicated with the green shaded area.*

*The shrimp fishery in German waters to the east of 7°35'00" degrees east longitude and to the north of 54°00'00" degrees north latitude will only be permitted during 200 hours per fortnight. The fortnightly blocks will start at odd weeks. In figure 5.2.1 this fishing area is indicated with the red shaded area.*

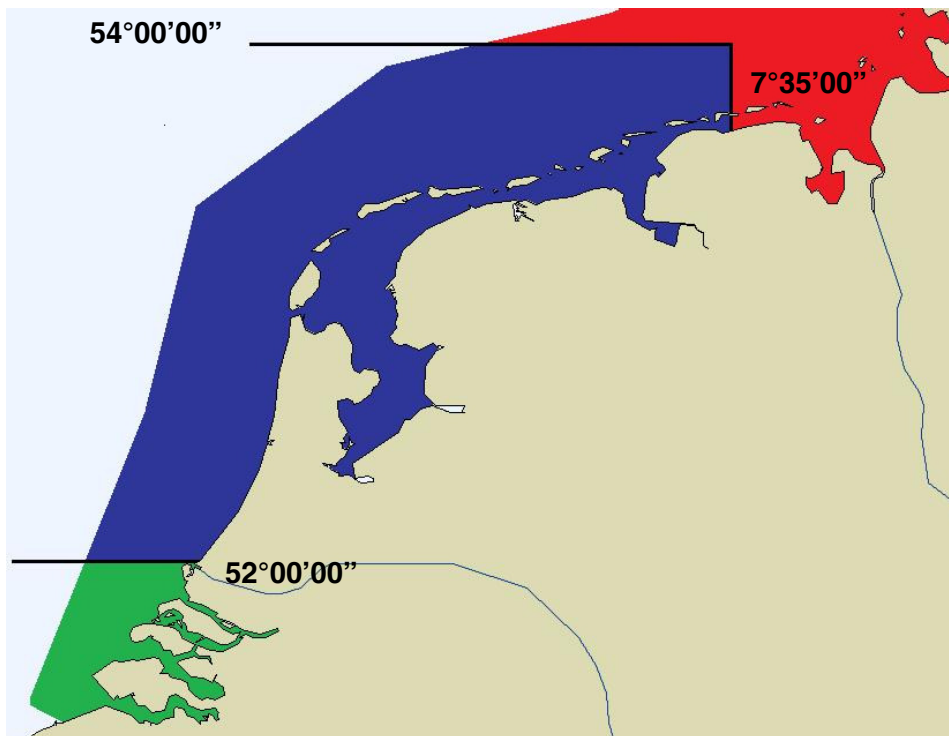


Figure 5.2.1

### **5.3 Minimum mesh size**

The minimum mesh size of a shrimp net is 20mm or “22 mm including the twine”, stretched mesh.

### **5.4 Catch reduction rule for shrimp**

The catch reduction rule for shrimp is dependent on the results of the research conducted by Imares.

### **5.5 Catch reduction rule for bycatch**

To minimise the bycatch of undersized brown shrimp as well as fish, there will be a continuous monitoring and evaluation of the bycatch level on the basis of the discard registration by Imares.

In this context, the fishing effort is limited from week 24 until and including week 35. In these weeks the length of the fishing week is at maximum 84 hours in which the start of the fishing week is defined according to article 5.2. In addition, it is mandatory to lay-up the vessel for two weeks in total during the weeks 24 until and including week 35. Each participant may decide when these two weeks will be implemented.

A total of 840 hours fishing will be allowed in this period.

### **5.6 Vessel capacity**

Vessels have a maximum engine power of 221Kw (300hp) as is determined by legislation.

Compliance and inspection of this regulation will be in accordance with the agreement “covenant engine power”.

It is the ambition of the CVO to install a permanent monitoring system of engine power in the next two years coming years, to support the compliance of the maximum engine power.

### **5.7 Compliance**

- 5.7.1 Compliance of all agreements about fishing pressure in Article 5 will be verified by an inspector, who is appointed by the CVO. Reports of the inspector will be sent to the Board within two weeks.
- 5.7.2 Violations of the agreements in the management plan by participants will be penalised in accordance with the penalty regulation.
- 5.7.3 Compliance of all agreements in this management plan will be verified with the existing means of control. Once every vessel possesses a Black Box, inspection on the compliance of all the agreements in Article 5.2 will take place with the use of this Black Box.

## **6 BYCATCH**

- 6.1.
  - a. The participants have the objective to reduce the volume of non-surviving bycatch substantially in five years.
  - b. For this purpose, reference measurements will be done by IMARES in 2010 of the mean volume ratios of (non-surviving) bycatch per haul. Comparative

measurements and estimates will subsequently be done in 2011 and 2014.

IMARES performs this monitoring in the context of the Data Collection Regulation

- 6.2. Participants will use the sieve net with a mesh size of maximum of 70 (seventy) mm, in conformity with the EU-regulation (EC) No. 254/2002 with technical measures
- 6.3. The CVO will make efforts to develop alternative techniques for the sieve net, in consultation with stakeholders. Fishing without sieve net can only be allowed by the CVO when an alternative technique is applied, of which a scientific authority has determined with research that the applied technique will lead to at least the same level of bycatch reduction as the sieve net.
- 6.4. Dispensation for the use of the sieve net in a specific fishing area can only be provided by the CVO to participants when the participants are provably hampered by a high density of seaweed, or hampered for a similar reason, in their catch. The dispensation will last at maximum two weeks and will apply to all participants in that area. The total dispensation for an area cannot exceed eight weeks in the first year of the management plan coming into operation.
- 6.5. The dispensation rule for the use of the sieve net in Article 6.4 will be reduced in a period of four years. De length of the dispensation for each year is at maximum:  
Year 1: 8 weeks  
Year 2: 8 weeks  
Year 3: 4 weeks  
Year 4: 4 weeks.  
At the start of the fifth year there will be no longer a dispensation rule for the use of the sieve net.
- 6.6. Dispensation for the use of the sieve net will apply to a limited area which will be further specified by the CVO.
- 6.7. Decisions to reduce temporary high bycatch levels can be taken at all times by the CVO according to Article 5.5
- 6.8. The sector installs annual incentive prices for initiatives that will lead to further bycatch reduction.

## **7 SEAFLOOR DISTURBANCE**

- 7.1. The areas that are closed for shrimp fishery are listed in Appendix 2.  
The areas for research that shall be closed, whether or not temporarily, are listed in Appendix 3.
- 7.2. Participants and other stakeholders can present argued proposals to adjust the list of closed areas. Such proposals shall be weighed and judged by the CVO, after consultation with the stakeholders.

## **8 CATCH SORTING ON-BOARD**

Participants shall sort their catches with a rinsing/sorting machine that is recognised by the CVO. All sorting machines that were installed at 1 March 2009 are recognised by the CVO.

It is prohibited to adjust the sorting machine in a way that can impede its intended operation (neither adjustment of the sorting machine nor by using extra materials).

## **9 LANDING**

Landing of the catch shall take place on sieving stations that are recognised by the CVO with an MSC-Chain of Custody certification that allows inspection at any given moment. Landings outside these registered sieving stations shall only be allowed when the shrimps are transported directly, without any further treatment, by road/rail, to one of the registered sieving stations. Landings at all sieving stations and landing sites are subject to regular verification by an inspector.

A complete list of registered sieving stations will be established and maintained on the website by the Bureau. Landings at non-registered sieving stations are not allowed to carry the MSC-label.

## **10 SIEVING**

- 10.1 The maximum percentage of shrimp residue (sieverage) is 15% for each landing. Inspectors can make verification visits at irregular times, either announced or unannounced.
- 10.2 Weighing of the sieverage and electronic registration are the responsibilities of the PO. This shall be done routinely in a standard fashion as approved by the CVO. Sieving and weighing will be routinely verified by an inspector.
- 10.3 The sieve used in authorised landing sites shall be of the standard type as described in the directive "Code 2006: 190/57.8.1" of the Shrimp Advisory Committee, with a sieve width of at least 6.8 mm and that is equipped with an attached crusher. The sieve shall be inspected at irregular intervals by an inspector.

## **11 ELECTRONIC LOGBOOK AND WEBSITE**

Participants will maintain a standard electronic registration in conformity with the European regulation (EC) No. 1077/2008.

The CVO determines a standardised data registration.

The data, the files and the website are property of the GPO.

The Office is responsible for the processing of the data and the proper functioning and availability of the website. The data supply will be done according to the protocol in Appendix I of this management plan.

The website is freely accessible with an access code to all participants and stakeholders of this management plan. The access to the website will be managed by the GPO.

## **12 TRASH AND POLLUTION**

- 12.1 Every participant is obliged to be a member of the Foundation to Finance Waste from Fishing or an equivalent organisation.
- 12.2 The use of CFC's on vessels meet the requirements of the Dutch environmental legislation "Regeling lekdichtheidsvoorschriften koelinstallaties 1997."

- 12.3 Every participant has to be able to show the inspector that their vessel has an International Anti-Fouling System Certificate (IASC).

### **13 INNOVATION AND RESEARCH**

Innovation and research in the shrimp fishery shall be conducted according to the research plan "Towards sustainability in the shrimp fishery" of the CVO.

This research plan and the results thereof shall be evaluated annually by the CVO, in association with the scientific authority and the stakeholders. Where necessary will the research plan be adjusted.

### **14 COMPLIANCE AND INSPECTION**

The CVO shall appoint inspectors for the necessary auditing of an effective execution of this management plan. The contact details of the inspectors will be available on the website.

Participants shall observe the compliance of the agreements in this management plan. Compliance by participants of all agreements in this management plan shall be confirmed by at least regular reports of inspectors. Participants also accept additional irregular and/or unannounced inspections of the compliance by inspectors.

Inspection reports will be judged by the Board within two weeks after having been received. Sanctions will be according to the penalty regulation in Appendix 4.

### **15 EVALUATION**

This management plan will be evaluated at least once a year by the CVO, in consultation with representatives of the POs and the stakeholders. The CVO can accept recommendations for adjustment of this management plan, on its own initiative and as a result of the evaluation.

When there is sufficient reason, to be judged by the CVO, it can be decided to carry out an intersessional evaluation.

### **16 BOARD**

This management plan will be controlled by the CVO. For an appropriate implementation of the management plan, there will be an appointment of a Board and an Office. The address information of the CVO is:

Dutch Fishermen's Association - PO

Onder de Toren 30

8303 BV Emmeloord

0031 527 698151

[secretariaat@vissersbond.nl](mailto:secretariaat@vissersbond.nl)

PO Brown Shrimp

Havenkade 1

1779 GS Den Oever

0031 227 512048

[info@po-wieringen.nl](mailto:info@po-wieringen.nl)

By signing this management plan, the participant authorises the holder of the MSC-certificate, CVO, and the PO to implement this management plan on behalf of the participant.

## **17 COSTS**

The costs for participating in this management plan will be determined on a yearly basis according to the amount of landings.

## **18 COMMUNICATION**

The freely accessible informative website, [www.crangon.nl](http://www.crangon.nl), provides general information for this management plan. This website serves to support the management plan. An electronic copy shall be sent annually to all participants and to all other stakeholders.

## APPENDIX 1 PROTOCOL FOR DATA COLLECTION

This protocol is an integral part of the management plan and has the following **ambition**:

Participants send an electronic logbook message to the CVO with at least the following information:

1. Full information on the Automatic Identification System (AIS);
2. Positions of fishing activities with a GPS-system and frequency as specified and approved by the CVO;
3. Information on the catch of shrimps in volume in different sizes (kg, cooked);
4. Information on the bycatch, specified per species in volume (kg);
5. Registration of bycatch per haul;
6. Duration of each haul;
7. Automatic registration of the fuel use;
8. Place of landing;
9. Registered percentages of sieveage for each landing; and
10. Identified irregularities.

The CVO decides whether the data will be available on the website <http://www.cragon.nl>.

Participants are obliged to co-operate in providing the CVO the above-mentioned information.

## APPENDIX 2 CLOSED AREAS FOR SHRIMP FISHERY

- Denmark
  - o Danish part of the Waddenzee: 100%
- Germany
  - o German part of the Waddenzee: to be determined.
- Netherlands
  - o Areas that are legally not accessible are:
    - Waddenzee:
      - 64.038 ha closed area.
      - Mussel fields: approximately 7.700 ha.
      - Mosselzaadinvanginstallaties (MZI's): 356 ha in 2007; 160 ha new in 2009.
      - Reference area to the south of Rottumerplaat: 7.389 ha
      - Compensation area in southern part of Eems-Dollard: 5.521 ha
      - Total closed areas: 81.633 ha
    - Northsea:
      - In the Oosterschelde (16%), the Westerschelde (7 areas) and the Voordelta, as meant in "Ruimte voor een zilte oogst" (Beleidsbesluit Schelpdiervisserij 2005-2020), is shrimp fishery not allowed on dry-falling sandbars.
    - Voordelta:

Protected areas as they are incorporated in the management plan Voordelta:

- Hinderplaat;
- Bollen van de Ooster;
- Bolland van het Nieuwe Zand;
- Slikken van Voorne; and
- Verklikkerplaat.

### **APPENDIX 3 CLOSED AREAS FOR RESEARCH ON THE EFFECTS OF SHRIMP FISHERY ON THE SEAFLOOR**

The research plan is under construction and will be further specified in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Food Quality.

## **APPENDIX 4 PENALTY REGULATION**

### **PENALTY REGULATION**

#### **Belonging to the Management plan MSC Brown Shrimp**

(The Dutch version of the Penalty Regulation is leading)

#### **Article 1**

##### **Definitions**

In this penalty regulation defines the following terms:

- Union: Co-operative Association of Fisheries (CVO);
- Board: Board of the Union;
- Participants: PO's in which their members take part in the Management plan MSC Brown Shrimp;
- Member: Member that takes part in the MSC Management plan Brown Shrimp and who is a member of a PO;

#### **Article 2**

##### **Objective**

1. Objective of this penalty regulation is the regulation of the settlement of the violations of the conditions stated in the MSC Management plan Brown Shrimp and further legal decisions to be taken by the Union.
2. To accomplish this objective the Participants of the Union have decided in a general meeting to establish this Penalty Regulation on the basis of Article 5.7.2.
3. Violations of the aforementioned conditions will be discussed by the Board and will be settled by the Participants.

#### **Article 3**

The Board is capable to settle violations on the ground of the MSC Management plan Brown Shrimp.

The involved Participant is obliged, in the case where the Board has decided that the Member of the Participant has violated a condition, provided that the involved member has not given notice of appeal against the decision of the Board, to pay the fine within a month

after receiving the decision of the Board. The Member is allowed to deduct the fine from that which the Union is indebted to the Member. However, this is not possible in the case of a time penalty. The costs of the decision-taking process by the Board will be fulfilled by the Union.

#### **Article 4**

The Board is capable, by intervention of the Participant, to impose a fine on a Member of the related Participant that is in violation with the conditions set out in this Regulation, within the set maxima. The Union receives a percentage of the imposed fine.

#### **Article 5**

Violations of conditions set out in the Management plan MSC Brown Shrimp can be officially ascertained and be taken into consideration within four months after the date of violation. When this period of time is exceeded, the fine will be expired.

#### **Article 6**

Violations of conditions set out in the Management plan MSC Brown Shrimp can be announced to the Participant of which the violator is part.

#### **Article 7**

The announcement requires to include at least the following information:

- The personal information of the one that does the announcement;
- Date and place of violation;
- The kind of violation; and
- The number of the involved vessel.

#### **Article 8**

The chairman of the Board decides in consultation with its members of the Board whether a case needs to be taken into consideration. Every Member, that has been suspected of a violation, has the right to be verbally witnessed.

#### **Article 9**

The length of the consideration will be at maximum three months after the official recognition of a violation.

#### **Article 10**

The secretary of the Board informs the defendant by letter about the kind of violation, the date of the violation and also the date and place when the verbal hearing will take place. The verbal hearing will not take place when the defendant decides to withdraw himself from the verbal hearing.

#### **Article 11**

The chairman of the Board decides on the magnitude of the verbal hearing.

#### **Article 12**

1. During the verbal hearing the defendant can be assisted by a counsel who is an authorized representative. The authorized representative needs to show his mandate at the start of the hearing, unless he is a lawyer and registered as one.
2. The chairman of the Board will give the defendant the opportunity to defend himself during the hearing. The defendant has the right to deliver pieces of documents in the form of witnesses, specialists and documents. Supporting documents need to be sent to the secretary of the Board within a week.

#### **Article 13**

The defendant has the right to aim a written defence to the Board before the verbal hearing takes place.

#### **Article 14**

1. Documents which show a legal violation and the petition of the verbal hearing will be sent by the secretary of the Board to the defendant. These documents will be at the office of the Union for inspection starting from the day that the documents have been sent to the defendant.
2. The prosecutor will be informed about the date and location of the verbal hearing by the secretary of the Board. The secretary of the Board will send a copy of the documents to the prosecutor if the prosecutor has requested these documents. The prosecutor needs to send a request by letter to the secretary of the Board if the prosecutor wishes to receive these documents. These documents will also be at the office of the Union for inspection for the prosecutor from the day that the documents have been sent to the defendant.
3. The prosecutor can send a request by letter to the chairman of the Board to be present at the verbal hearing. The chairman of the Board will decide whether the prosecutor needs to be present at the verbal hearing of which no notice of appeal can be given.
4. If the defendant of the prosecutor wishes to receive copies of the documents, then the chairman of the Board will decide whether these copies should be handed over and if so, against which allowance.

#### **Article 15**

The Board may decide that a further treatment is necessary.

#### **Article 16**

The chairman of the Board decides when the verbal hearing is closed.

#### **Article 17**

The secretary of the Board makes notes of what is said during the verbal hearing and also of which documents have been discussed during the verbal hearing.

#### **Article 18**

After closing the verbal hearing, the Board decides within four weeks. This length of period can be expanded twice at maximum with a length of period of four weeks for each expansion.

The Board decides with a final majority of votes.

The act of the Board mentions the name and address of the defendant, the facts, the considerations and the decision made by the Board.

#### **Article 19**

1. The secretary of the Board sends a registered letter to the defendant with the decision of the Board and the report of the treatment.
2. The secretary of the Board makes the decision of the Board known to the Participants.

#### **Article 20**

##### **Penalties and procedures**

1. The Member of the Participant who violates the conditions set in article 5.2 of the Management plan MSC Brown Shrimp owes the Union for each violation a fine of at maximum EUR 25.000.
2. The Member of the Participant who violates the conditions set in article 5.3 of the Management plan MSC Brown Shrimp owes the Union for each violation a fine of at maximum EUR 5.000.
3. The Member of the Participant who violates the conditions set in article 5.4 of the Management plan MSC Brown Shrimp owes the Union for each violation a fine of at maximum EUR 250.000. Article 5.4 will be further elaborated on the basis of the research conducted by Imares.
4. The Member of the Participant who violates the conditions set in article 5.5 of the Management plan MSC Brown Shrimp owes the Union for each violation a fine of at maximum EUR 25.000.
5. The Member of the Participant who violates the conditions set in article 5.6 of the Management plan MSC Brown Shrimp owes the Union for each violation a fine that requires further elaboration.
6. The Member of the Participant who violates the conditions set in article 6.5 of the Management plan MSC Brown Shrimp owes the Union for each violation a fine of at maximum EUR 25.000.
7. The Member of the Participant who violates the conditions set in article 7.1 of the Management plan MSC Brown Shrimp owes the Union for each violation a fine of at maximum EUR 50.000.
8. The Member of the Participant who violates the conditions set in article 8 of the Management plan MSC Brown Shrimp owes the Union for each violation a fine of at maximum EUR 25.000.
9. The Member of the Participant who violates the conditions set in article 10.1 of the Management plan MSC Brown Shrimp owes the Union for the first violation a

warning. For the next violation with one year owes the Member of the Participant the Union for each violation a fine in relation to the percentage of sievage of at maximum EUR 100 for each kilogram of landed sievage.

10. The fish auction who violates the conditions set in articles 10.2 and 10.3 of the MSC Management plan Brown Shrimp owes the Union for each violation a fine of at maximum EUR 100.000. The Union is advised to set an agreement, with respect to the methodology of sieving, with the auction market for fish products. In this agreement a compensation for payments for the Participant should be incorporated in the case when the fish auction violates the conditions set in articles 10.2 and 10.3.
11. The Board can lay on a time penalty to the violator apart from the mentioned fines in the subsections 1 up to and including 10. This time penalty will shorten the length of fishing time.
12. The involved Member of the Participant is obliged to pay the fine within fifteen days after receiving the decision to the Union, when the Board has decided that the involved Member of the Participant has violated a condition and when the involved Member of the Participant has not given notice of appeal against the decision of the Board. The Union is authorized to withhold the fine on what the Union is indebted to the involved Member of the Participant. A time penalty needs to be considered precisely.

## **Article 21**

### **Appeal**

1. The prosecutor and / or defendant can give notice of appeal to the Netherlands Arbitration Institute within two weeks after the date of the registered letter has been sent. This is not possible when the prosecutor and / or defendant have not responded to the verbal hearing or when they have decided not to attend the verbal hearing.
2. In the case of the appeal being upheld, will the Board redeposit the amount of money that has already been paid to the involved Member of the Participant within ten days after the decision of the Netherlands Arbitration Institute has been made.

## **Article 22**

The Board sets up an annual report which includes the result and the method of implementation of the penalty regulation. The Board presents at the latest of end of January for the annual report of the foregoing year.