



Marine  
Management  
Organisation

## RECORDING BELOW MINIMUM SIZE (BMS) FISH

### Guidance subject

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# 1. Background

Fishing vessels over 10m in length have to record catches and landings using a logbook, and for vessels over 12m in length, this has to be by means of an electronic logbook (“e-log”).

All fish subject to quota must be retained and landed under the Landing Obligation (LO) unless there is an exemption. This includes fish below Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS), [now referred to as Below Minimum Size (BMS)]. All retained fish must be recorded in the log as an estimate when the total amount of any species is 50kg or above. *All landed fish will count against quota.*

If discards are made at sea using a (LO) exemption, then discards of ANY quantity should be estimated and recorded. For species not subject to a LO exemption, then they should be recorded where the amount is 50kg live weight or greater. This 50kg is cumulative – e.g. if a vessel catches 20kg on the first trip day and 30kg on the second, this must be recorded. *These discarded species will not count against quota.*

All of the E-log systems have a means to record BMS fish and these are described below, following the guide for paper logbooks.

# 2. Paper logbook and landing declaration

For vessels using paper logbooks, then the BMS fish should be entered in a new column as shown below in Figure 1, with an estimated weight if above 50kg, as with sized fish.

The image shows a 'UNION FISHING LOG-BOOK' form for vessel GBR 5409201. The form is divided into several sections:
 

- Header:** Vessel name 'CALVE BLUE', external ID 'NE057', and address 'TOWN WALL NOWHERE'.
- Logbook Table:** A table with columns for species (NEP, WHG, HAD, COD, ANF, TAL, PLE, WHG, COD) and rows for fishing days. Entry for day 12 shows a catch of 200 kg of WHG and 6 kg of COD.
- Landing/Transhipment Table:** A table with columns for species (NEP, WHG, HAD, COD, ANF, TAL, WHG, COD) and rows for landings. Entry for day 12 shows landings of 20 kg WHG and 2.5 kg COD.
- Signatures:** Fields for skipper and observer signatures, with a signature present in the observer field.

 Red circles highlight the 'WHG COD' species columns in the logbook table, the 'BMS BMS' entries in the landing table, and the '20 2.5' values in the landing table. A blue box highlights the '6' kg value for COD in the logbook table.

Figure 1 – Paper Logbook

If the BMS is less than 50kg across a whole trip it does not show in the log (as above) until landed.

When completing the landing declaration, you must write the weighed amount of all BMS and sized fish landed, including small amounts, as shown above.

When discarding any fish at sea, the species should be entered at the top of the column alongside other catches kept on board, and write DIS (Discards) in the box below (indicated with **blue box** above) to show that it has been discarded, with the weight estimated in the box below that. If discards are made at sea using a (LO) exemption, then discards of ANY quantity should be estimated and recorded. For species not subject to a LO exemption, then they should be recorded where the amount is 50kg or greater.

### 3. E-Catch system: electronic logbook and landing declaration

[The text below is mainly taken from guidance provided by E-Catch]:

How to report discards and BMS fish.

In the tow screen you are able to make a distinction between normal catch, catch that is discarded and catch of BMS fish that has to be landed ashore.

Add species with presentation 'whole'.

Start with updating your database by clicking Settings > Updates > Update online

In the section 'Settings' > 'Species', you can select your favourite species. When you need to report fish that is kept whole, but also with a different presentation (e.g. gutted), you will need to enable these two separate options so you can choose between them in your tow screen. With the buttons 'Up' and 'Down', shown in Figure 2 below, you can alter the position of the species line selected and with the 'Remove' button you can delete species from your favourite list. You can also add a species in the tow screen itself.

When the master is submitting his landing declaration (LAN), any landed BMS should be entered as Dried (DRI) in the fish "state" column, and WHL (whole) presentation, separately to sized fish.

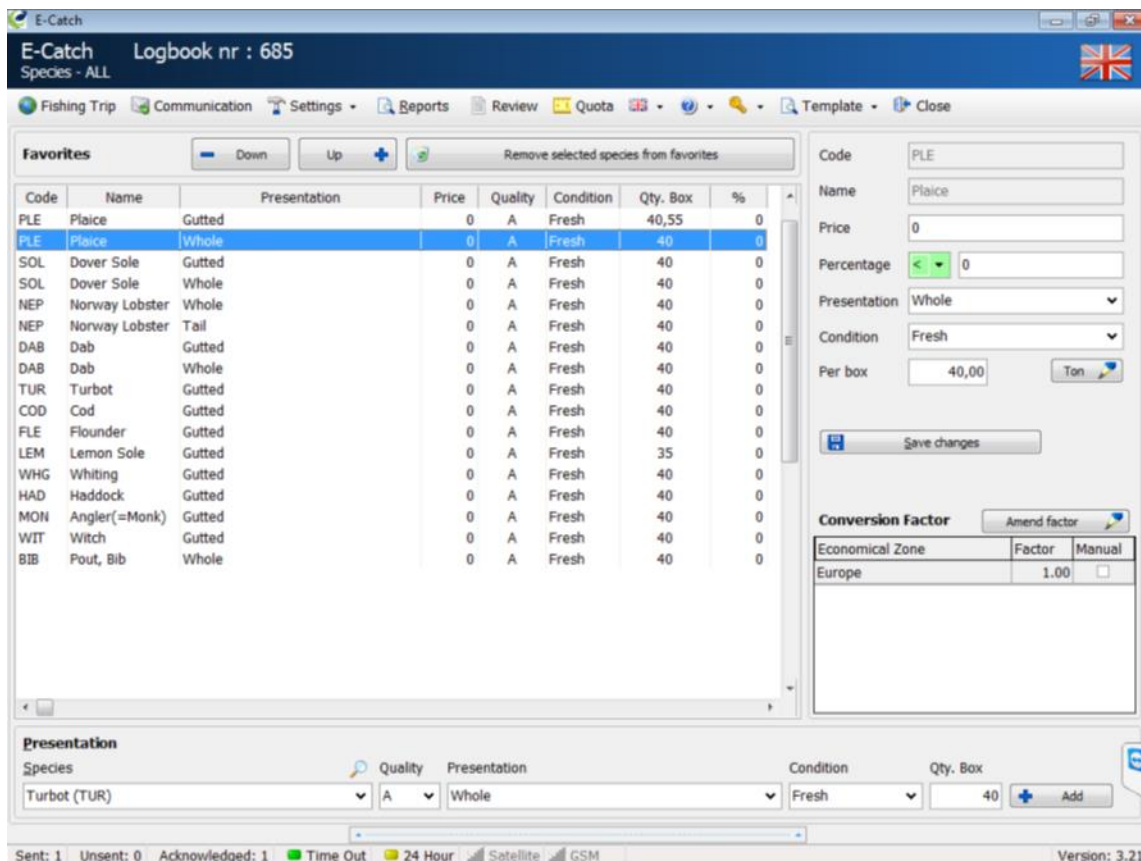


Figure 2 – E-Catch Tow Screen

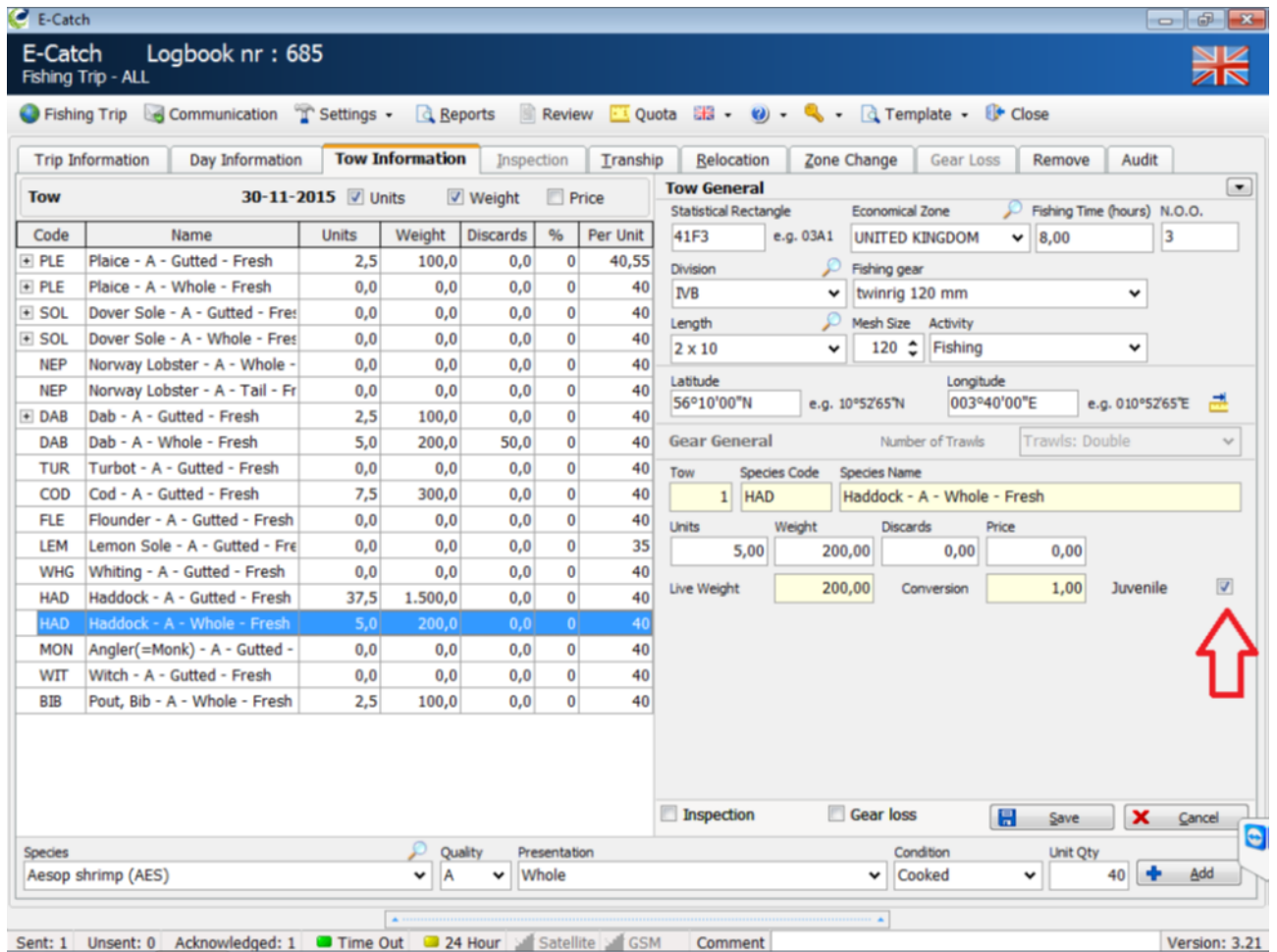
When you enter your normal catch in the tow or daily report, you need to enter the 'dead weight' (e.g. gutted) of the fish which will be converted automatically to live weight in the message that is sent out. When the fish is not processed but kept whole, you can enter this live weight for your normal catch and this will be the same weight reflected in the FAR message. In the main screen both dead weight and live weight are displayed.

Enter discards and catch of juvenile fish.

*To avoid mistakes, it is preferred to use a separate tow when you want to enter weight for discarded fish and/or juvenile fish that needs to be landed ashore.*

When you want to enter the weight of BMS fish that needs to be landed, you will have to select the species (with presentation whole, but you can choose differently) and enter the weight in the field you are used to for weight of normal catch, ticking the box for "Juvenile" after that (shown in Figure 3). You can continue to enter the weight for the next species, but each time (when it concerns BMS fish) you have to tick the box for "Juvenile".

To enter weight for discards, you have to fill out the weight in the box 'Discards'. You can tick the box 'Juvenile' when you also want to indicate that the discarded weight is BMS fish.



**Figure 3 – E-Catch Tow Information – Juvenile Tick Box**

The catch of BMS fish that will be landed will remain visible in the main screen, but only as part of the total catch of a species and not separately. Discarded catch will not be visible anymore.

Fill out your landing declaration (LAN).

In the LAN declaration screen you need to enter the sold weight for legal sized catch as usual by selecting the species on the left hand side and entering the sold weight on the right hand side, clicking “save” after that. This needs to be done for each species.

After this, the weight of juveniles that have been landed needs to be added.

For this, you select the species from the bottom bar and select presentation ‘whole’ and condition ‘dried’ and you fill out the weight behind it. Then click + add to add this species to your landing declaration. In Figure 4 below you can see that 50 kg of juvenile whiting has already been added and 40 kg of juvenile haddock is about to be added.



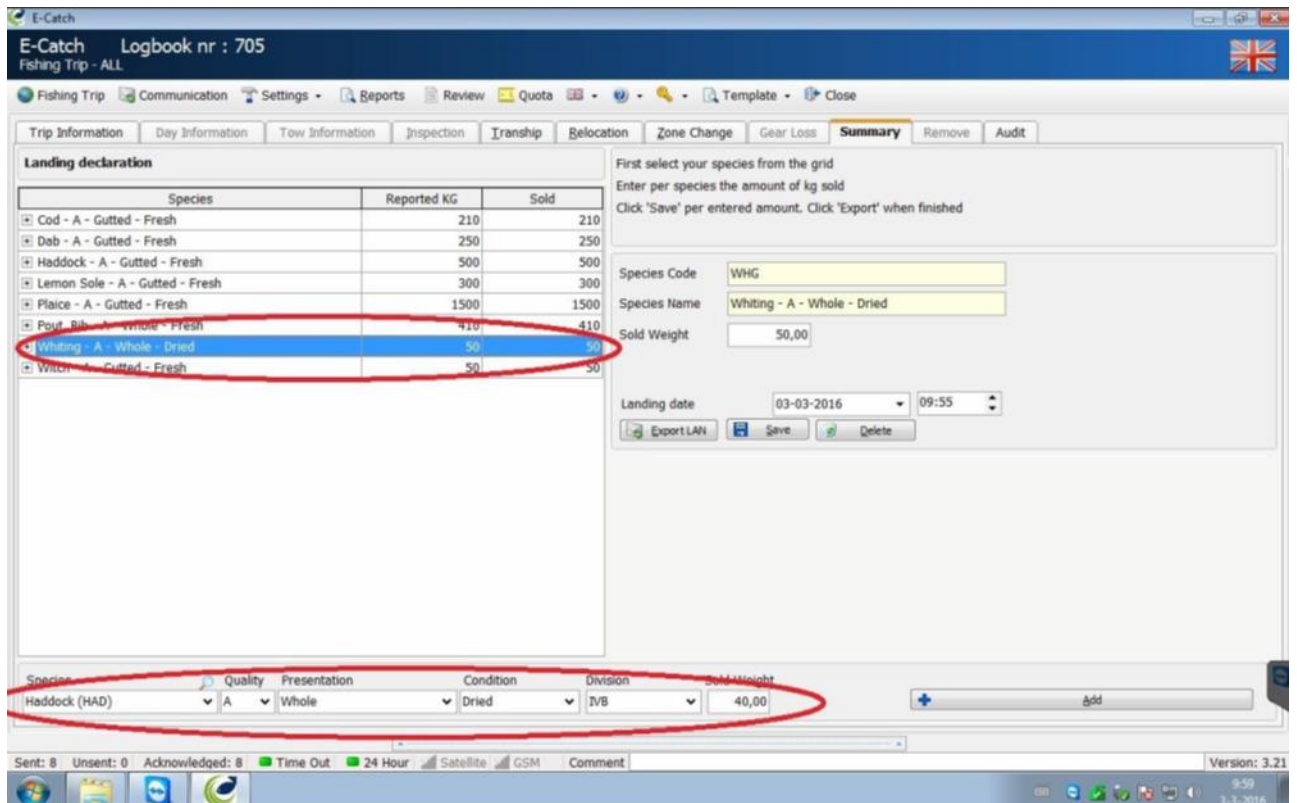


Figure 4 – Landing Declaration Screen

## 4. Catchlog system: electronic logbook and landing declaration

Below is an extract from the “Catchlog” system and shows how to enter BMS on the fishing activity report (FAR).

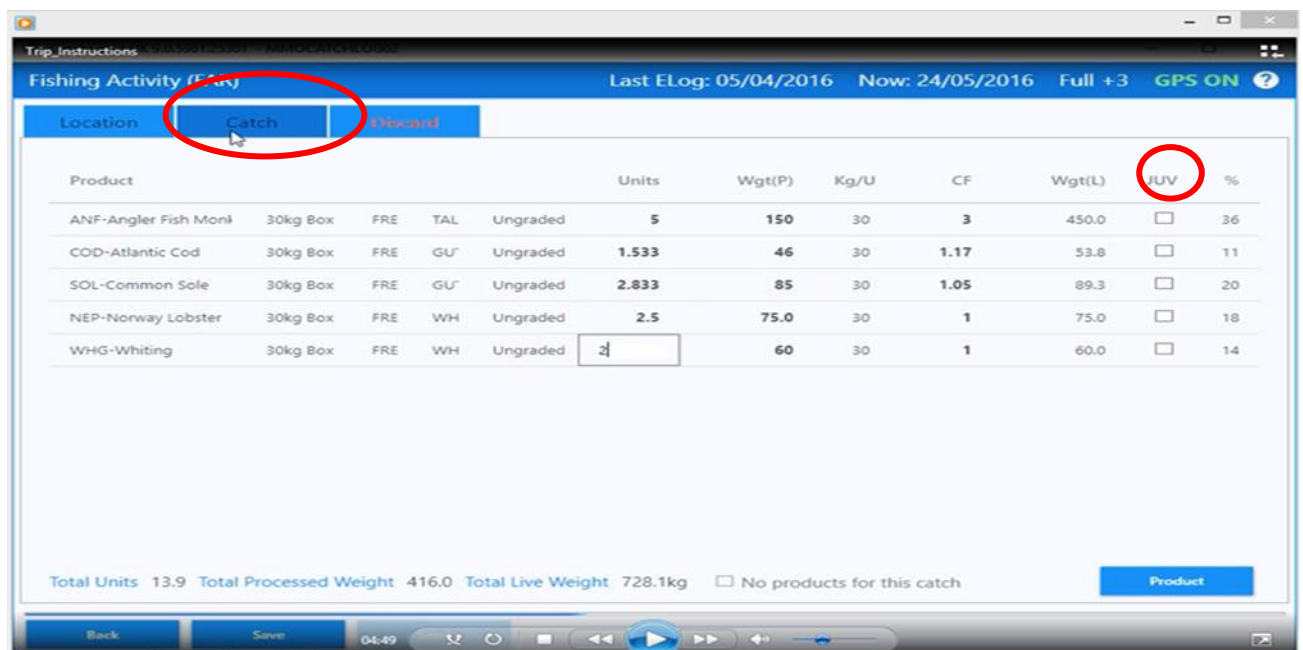
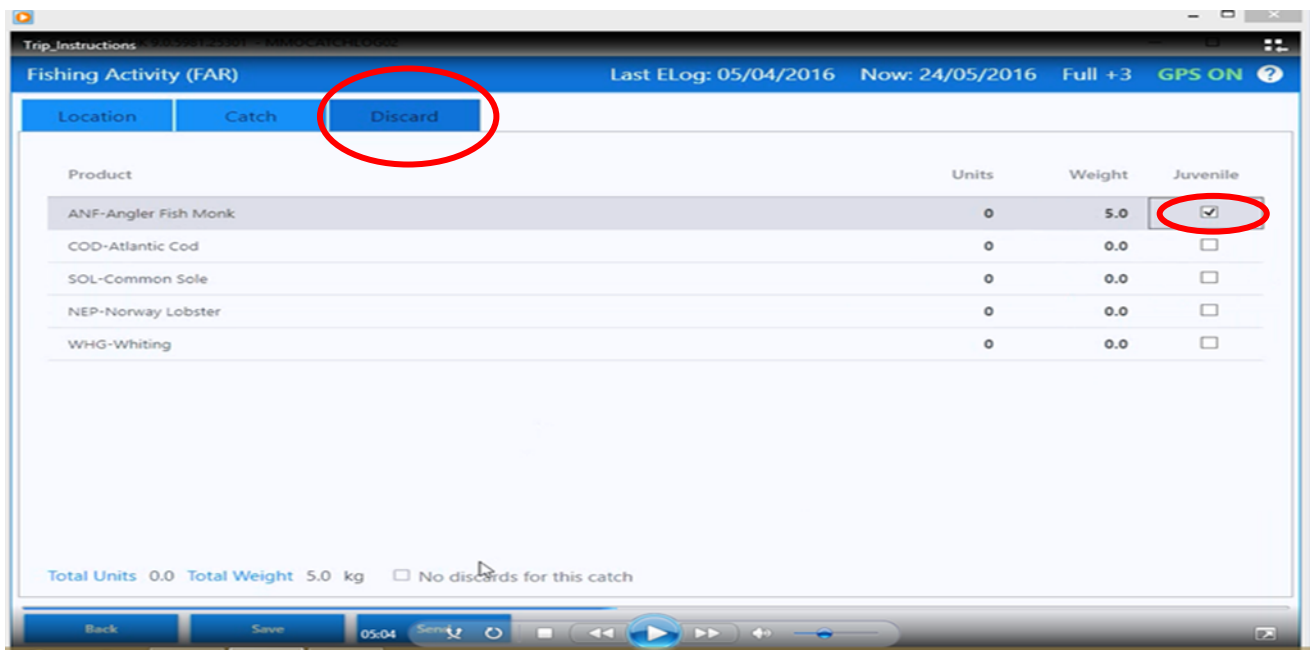


Figure 5 Catchlog Catch Screen

As seen above in Figure 5, on the “Catch” tab, similarly to the E-catch system, a separate line would have to be added for the species and the box in the “JUV” (Juvenile) column would have to be ticked.



**Figure 6 – Catchlog Discard Screen**

When it comes to recording discards, as shown in Figure 6 above, these can be entered on the “Discard” tab by species and again, if these are BMS, the “Juvenile” column would be ticked, as shown above.

## 5. Olrac system: electronic logbook and landing declaration

Below is an extract from the “Olrac” system and shows how to enter BMS on the fishing activity report (FAR).

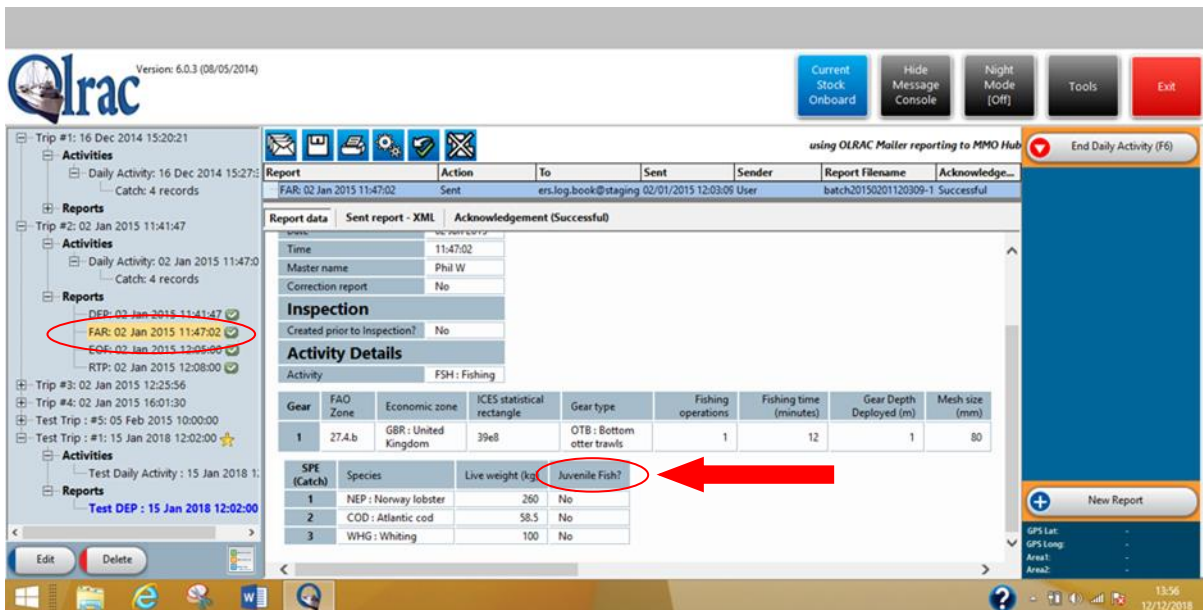


Figure 7 – Olrac FAR Juvenile

“Olrac” is slightly different from the previous two systems as it does not have a check box for BMS fish. You have to add another line for the species and put a yes under the juvenile column, shown in Figure 7 above and marked in red.

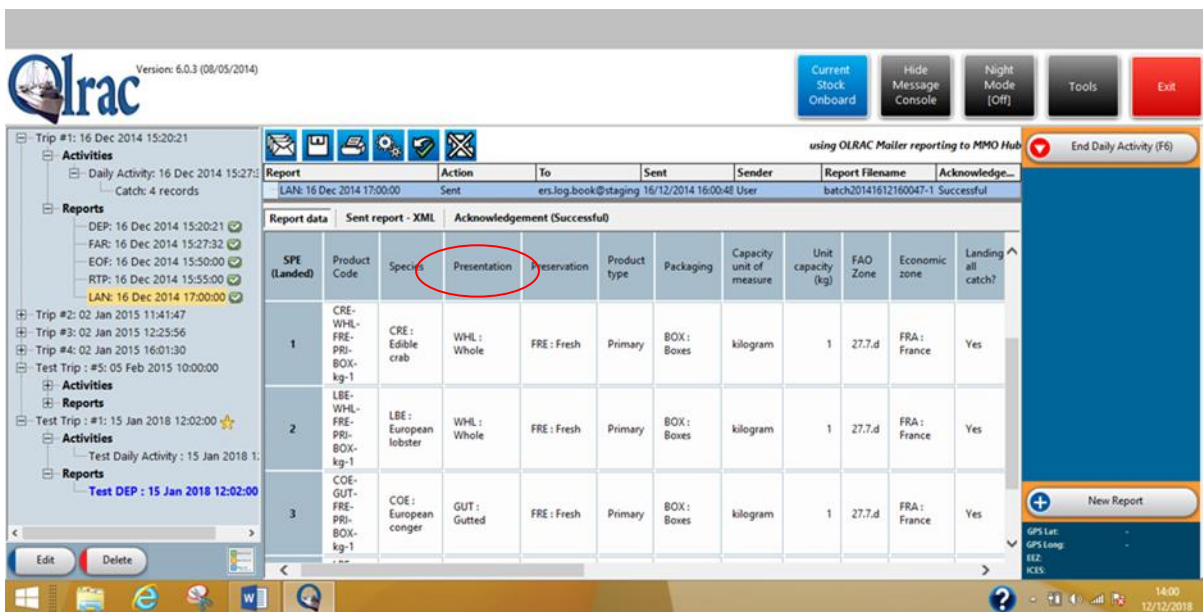


Figure 8 – Olrac Landing Declaration

When the vessel submits the landing declaration (LAN), the BMS fish have to be recorded in the “preservation” column (shown in Figure 8 circled in red), as DRI (Dried), and WHL (whole) under presentation, and recorded separately from the sized fish.