The low selectivity of the fishing gear and/or fishing strategies are the main causes of the high rates of by-catch in the commercial trawl fleets. In the last decades, most of these catches were usually returned to the sea dead or dying. In order to achieve a more selective fishing, the latest reform of the CFP obliges to land all catches of species with a quota and without any applicable exception. With the implementation of the LO (Landing Obligation), Europe urges the States and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFB) to adopt measures to reduce the by-catch, and also the discards.

Under its full implementation, the species subject to the LO must be landed and deducted from the quotas allocated to the fleet, including the fraction of catches below the minimum reference sizes for conservation purposes. This fraction of by-catch, it can not be marketed for human consumption, will be processed in another area (IDVP3) to obtain non-food products.

Fish discards and fish industry by-products might be used to obtain several high-value-added products. Depending on the final product to obtain, different treatments could be carried out.