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Ecopath needs to be told what to do with the discards you enter as part of the catches. Discards can either go to a detritus group or be exported. Discard fate is entered as a proportion, i.e., a value between and including 0 and 1, representing the fraction of the discards directed to a given detritus group (or exported).

If you are interested in quantifying the ecological impact of discarding it is recommended that you make a special detritus group called, e.g., 'Discarded fish' and direct the discards to this group.