

using an inclined netting panel to separate fish from *Nephrops*

TARGET SPECIES

Nephrops and mixed round and flatfish

AREA, VESSEL

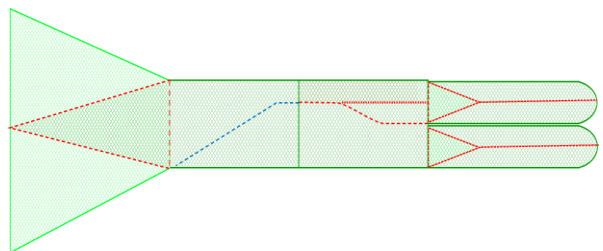
16 twin trawl catch comparison hauls were carried out in the North Sea on board the Amity II PD177 (21m, 400kW)

GEAR MODIFICATION

a four panel section was fitted into the extension of one of the nets of a twin rig prawn trawl.

The four panel section had an inclined panel made of square mesh netting. Fish which went over the panel were directed to the upper codend and those which went through it were directed to the lower codend.

Three different mesh sizes of the inclined square mesh panel were tested: 200, 300 and 400mm.



Percentage of catch in upper cod-end

<i>inclined panel mesh size (mm)</i>	200	300	400
Cod	92	79	47
Haddock	99	-	97
Whiting	96	77	94
Anglerfish	99	-	45
Plaice	97	-	38
Mixed Flatfish	52	49	22
<i>Nephrops</i>	32	12	2

RESULTS

- a large proportion of the fish catch can be separated from the target species, *Nephrops*.
- Nearly all haddock and whiting went over the panel regardless of the mesh size and into the upper codend
- larger quantities of cod, anglerfish, plaice and other flats go through the inclined panel as the mesh size increases and into the lower codend
- the quality of the fish and *Nephrops* in the separated codends is better

FURTHER INFORMATION

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