

# moving a square mesh panel (smp) closer to the codline

## to reduce discards of haddock and whiting in a whitefish trawl

### TARGET SPECIES

Haddock and whiting

### AREA, VESSEL

20 catch comparison twin trawl hauls took place in the North Sea on board the Challenge UL33 (27.69 m, 731 kW) during 2001

### GEAR MODIFICATION

The effect of inserting a 90 mm smp panel at 3 different positions; 3 - 6 m, 6 - 9 m, and 9 - 12 m, in a 100 mm codend is investigated.

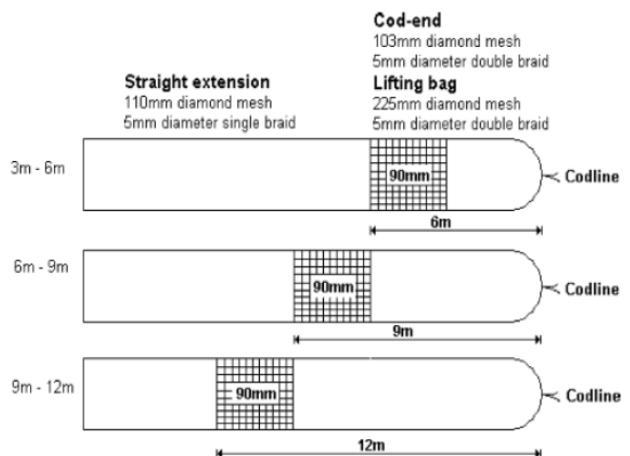


#### % reduction of haddock catches when a 90mm SMP is fitted to a 100mm codend

| SMP position | Discards (<30cm) | Grade IV (30-33.5cm)      | Grade III (34-41.5cm) | Grade II (42-49.5cm) | Grade I (>49.5cm) |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 9-12 m       | 39               | No significant difference |                       |                      |                   |
| 6-9 m        | 43               | No significant difference |                       |                      |                   |
| 3-6 m        | 74               | 20                        | 6                     | Not significant      |                   |

#### % reduction of whiting catches when a 90mm SMP is fitted to a 100mm codend

| SMP position | Discards (<30cm)          | Grade IV (30-33.5cm) | Grade III (34-41.5cm) | Grade II (42-49.5cm) | Grade I (>49.5cm) |
|--------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 9-12 m       | No significant difference |                      |                       |                      |                   |
| 6-9 m        | No significant difference |                      |                       |                      |                   |
| 3-6 m        | 87                        | 53                   | Not significant       |                      |                   |



Note : Joining rate = 2 diamond meshes to 1 square

### RESULTS

- inserting a 90 mm square mesh panel at any of the three positions reduces the number of discards.
- more fish escaped through the panel positioned 3 – 6 m from the codline than through those positioned 6 - 9 m or 9 - 12 m from the codline.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

Graham, N. et al., 2003. Square mesh panels in demersal trawls: further data relating haddock and whiting selectivity to panel position. Fish Res. 62, 361-375

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