

using a 35mm Swedish grid and 120mm square mesh panels (smp) to reduce capture of fish in a *Nephrops* trawl

TARGET SPECIES

Nephrops

AREA, VESSEL

24 twin trawl hauls in the west of Scotland on board the Ocean Trust OB38 (375kW) and 34 twin trawl hauls in the North Sea on board the Fruitful Bough PD 109 (522kW)



GEAR MODIFICATION

The catches of a standard *Nephrops* trawl with

- (i) a 35 mm Swedish grid,
- (ii) a 120 mm SMP at 6-9 m from the codline and
- (iii) a 120 mm SMP at 12-15 m from the codline.

were compared with those of a 40 mm codend

RESULTS

- There were no loss of smaller *Nephrops* (< 40 mm carapace length) from the Swedish grid gear, but there were losses of between 10-25% in the length range 41-58 mm.
- The SMP gears retain all large prawns but lose between 12 and 30% of those below about 37 mm.
- The grid gear did not catch any large fish
- The position of the SMPs did not influence catches of *Nephrops*, cod, haddock, or whiting.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Jim Drewery (j.drewery@marlab.ac.uk)

Drewery J. et al., 2010. The selectivity of the Swedish grid and 120mm square mesh panels in the Scottish *Nephrops* trawl fishery. Fisheries Research, 106, 454 – 459.

marinescotland
science

