

using a 300mm Square Mesh Panel to reduce fish discards in a *Nephrops* trawl

AIM

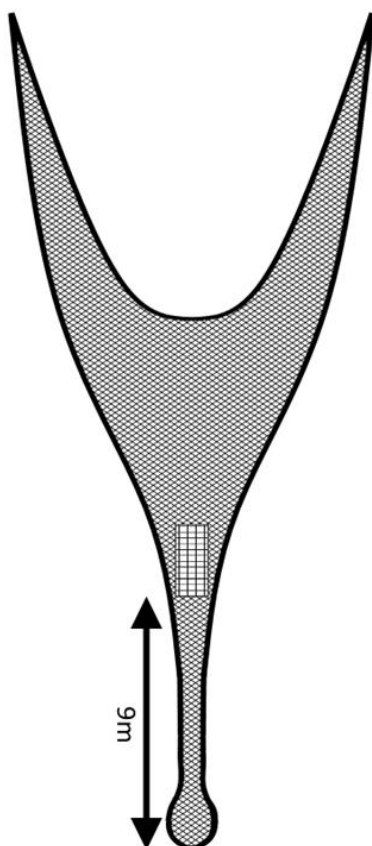
To assess the effect of fitting a 300mm square mesh panel on catches of fish and *Nephrops*.

TARGET SPECIES

Nephrops

AREA, VESSEL

23 quad-rig catch comparison hauls took place in the western Irish Sea (ICES VIIa) on board MFV Stella Nova (DA57) (23.5m, 441kW) during August 2014.



GEAR MODIFICATION

A 300mm square mesh panel was inserted 9m from the cod-line in the test gear.

The standard gear was identical but without a square mesh panel.

Nominal codend mesh size and fishing circle were 80 mm and 386 X 70 mm.

Species	Standard gear catch (kg)	300mm SMP catch (kg)	Difference (%)
Haddock	214	65	-70
Whiting	136	66	-52
<i>Nephrops</i>	1106	1262	14

RESULTS

There were reduced catches of haddock and whiting across all size grades.

The *Nephrops* catches were not reduced.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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