

# increasing codend mesh size from 70 to 80mm to reduce *Nephrops* discards

## AIM

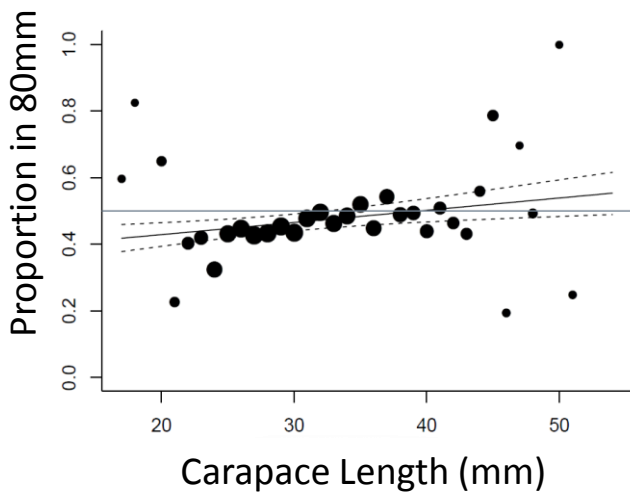
To assess the effect of an increase in diamond codend mesh size from 70 to 80mm on catches of *Nephrops*.

## TARGET SPECIES

*Nephrops*

## AREA, VESSEL

13 quad-rig catch comparison hauls took place in the western Irish Sea (ICES VIIa) on board a 22m *Nephrops* trawler during July 2015.



## GEAR MODIFICATION

70 and 80mm (nominal) diamond mesh codends were tested simultaneously on identical quad-rigged *Nephrops* trawls (fishing circle 380 x 80mm).

## RESULTS

There were significant reductions in the proportion of small *Nephrops* caught.

Economic modelling showed that there was no loss in profitability over the course of a fishing season.

Catching fewer small *Nephrops* provides the opportunity to catch increased quantities of larger more valuable size grades.

Species	70mm codend (kg)	80mm codend (kg)	Difference (%)
<i>Nephrops</i> <25mm CL	53	29	-45.3
<i>Nephrops</i> ≥25mm CL	2040	1808	-11.4

## FURTHER INFORMATION

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