

# using a modified Nordmøre grid to reduce *Nephrops* discarding

## AIM

To assess the effect of a sorting grid on catches of *Nephrops*

## TARGET SPECIES

*Nephrops*

## AREA, VESSEL

The quad-rig catch comparison trial took place in the western Irish Sea (ICES VIIa) on board MFV Our Lass II (DA261) (21.7m, 484kW) during September 2015.

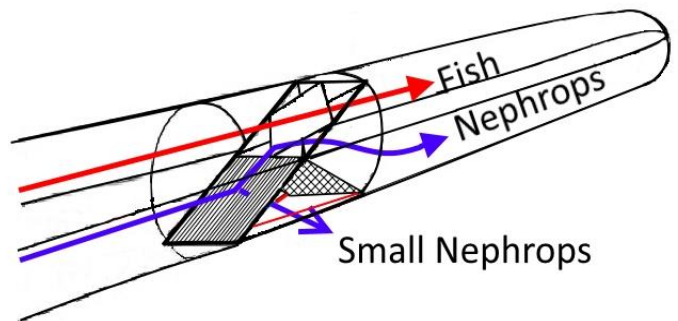
## GEAR MODIFICATION

The test gear was fitted with a modified Nordmøre grid:

- Vertical bars spaced 15mm apart in the lower half
- Reinforced opening in the top half
- Guiding panel and escape hole in bottom sheet of trawl to the rear of the grid

The standard gear was identical but without a rigid grid.

Nominal codend mesh size and fishing circle were 70mm and 380 X 80 mm.



Species	Standard gear catch (kg)	Grid gear catch (kg)	Difference (%)
<i>Nephrops</i> <25mm CL	454	293	-35
<i>Nephrops</i> ≥25mm CL	1454	1232	-15
<i>Nephrops</i> >31mm CL	346	332	-4

## RESULTS

- There was a reduction of 35% in small *Nephrops*.
- A reduction of 4% in whole *Nephrops* (>31mm).
- There was no reduction in catches of small or large fish.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

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