

using a Swedish grid with a bottom gap to reduce fish discards in a *Nephrops* trawl

AIM

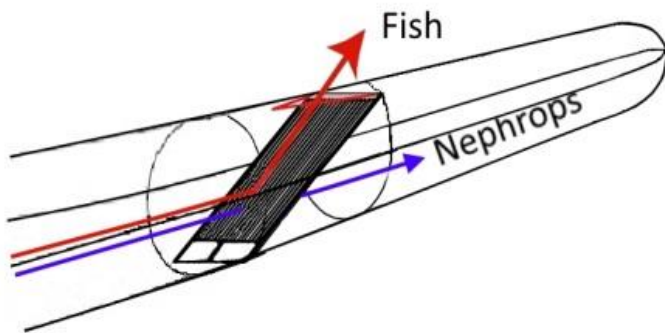
To assess the effect of a rigid grid with a bottom gap to sort catches of fish and *Nephrops*.

TARGET SPECIES

Nephrops

AREA, VESSEL

12 quad-rig catch comparison hauls 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 Swedish grid that had

- Vertical bars spaced 35mm apart in the lower and upper halves of the grid.
- A 15cm reinforced horizontal gap in the bottom of the grid
- An escape hole in the top sheet forward of the grid.

The standard gear was identical but without a rigid grid.

Nominal codend mesh size was 70mm for both gears.

Species	Standard gear catch (kg)	Grid catch (kg)	Difference (%)
Whiting	183	42	-77.0
Cod	75	0	-100.0
Haddock	42	4	-90.5
<i>Nephrops</i> <25mm CL	454	445	-2.0
<i>Nephrops</i> ≥25mm CL	1454	1389	-4.5

RESULTS

There was a substantial reduction in whiting, cod and haddock across all length classes, and a small reduction in catches of *Nephrops* across all length classes.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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