

using a 65mm square mesh codend to reduce discards in a *Nephrops* trawl

AIM

To investigate the effect of a 65mm square mesh codend on catches of *Nephrops* and fish.

TARGET SPECIES

Nephrops

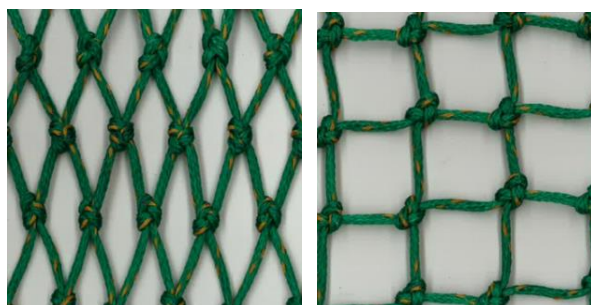
AREA, VESSEL

12 catch comparison hauls took place at the Smalls ground in the Celtic Sea (ICES VIIg) on board MFV Stella Nova (DA57) (23.5m, 441kW).



GEAR MODIFICATION

A 65 mm (nominal) square mesh codend was tested against a 75mm (nominal) diamond mesh codend using identical quad-rigged *Nephrops* trawls. Nominal fishing circle was 420 x 80 mm.



Species	75mm diamond (kg)	65mm square mesh (kg)	Diff (%)
< 25 mm CL	60	22	-63
<i>Nephrops</i> tails (25 – 31 mm CL)	416	154	-63
whole (> 31 mm CL)	830	526	-37
whiting	116	74	-37
haddock	476	256	-46

RESULTS

In the 65 mm square mesh codend there were large reductions in catches of whole, tailed and unmarketable *Nephrops*.

There were also large reductions in haddock and whiting catches.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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