

using a T90 mesh codend and extension to reduce whiting discards

AIM

To assess the effect of T90 mesh in the codend and extension piece on catches of whiting.

TARGET SPECIES

Whiting

AREA, VESSEL

13 twin-rig catch comparison hauls took place in the Celtic Sea (ICES VIIg) on board MFV Foyle Fisher (G497) (24.7m, 441kW) during April 2016.

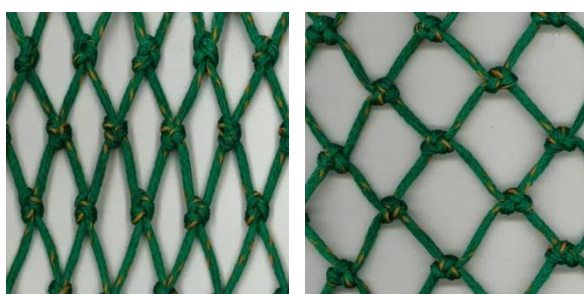


GEAR MODIFICATION

Test gear fitted with codend and extension piece constructed with T90 mesh.

Standard gear was identical but the codend and extension piece were constructed with diamond mesh.

80mm nominal double 4mm compact PE twine used on both gears.



diamond mesh

T90

Species	Standard gear catch (count)	T90 catch (count)	Diff (%)	
whiting	< 32 cm	2628	857	-67
	≥ 32 cm	6691	7774	16
haddock	< 30 cm	238	223	-6
	≥ 30 cm	3432	10427	204
plaice	< 27 cm	394	837	113
	≥ 27 cm	562	639	14

RESULTS

In the T90 codend there were significant reductions in the catches of small whiting and haddock.

There were increases in the catches of larger haddock, whiting and plaice.

However, there was also a significant increase in catches of small plaice.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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