

using a 45mm square mesh codend to reduce discards in a *Nephrops* trawl

AIM

To investigate the effect of a 45mm square mesh codend on catches of *Nephrops* and fish.

TARGET SPECIES

Nephrops

AREA, VESSEL

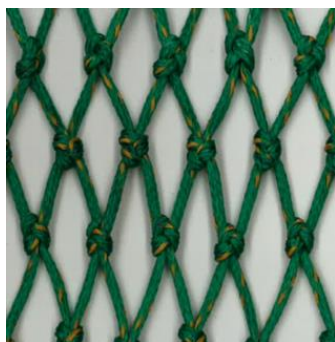
12 quad-rig catch comparison hauls took place at the Smalls ground in the Celtic Sea (ICES VIIg) on board MFV Stella Nova (DA57) (23.5m, 441kW).

GEAR MODIFICATION

A 45mm (nominal) square mesh codend was tested against a 75mm diamond mesh codend using identical quad-rigged *Nephrops* trawls. Nominal fishing circle was 420 X 80mm.



Species	75mm diamond (kg)	45mm square mesh (kg)	Diff (%)	
<i>Nephrops</i>	< 25 mm CL tails (25 – 31 mm CL)	60	53	-10
	whole (> 31 mm CL)	416	379	-9
		830	892	7
whiting	116	120	3	
haddock	476	532	12	



RESULTS

In the 45 mm square mesh codend there were small reductions in catches of unmarketable and tailed *Nephrops* and a small increase in catches of whole *Nephrops*.

There were also small increases in haddock and whiting catches.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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