

using large square mesh top panels to reduce roundfish bycatch in the beam trawl fishery

TARGET SPECIES

Sole and plaice

AREA, VESSEL

63 tows took place on large beam trawlers (1200 HP, 10m) in the Southern North Sea

GEAR MODIFICATION

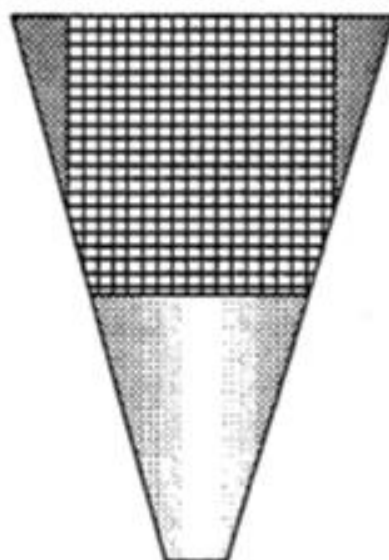
The top panel of a large beam trawl was fitted with 120 mm square mesh netting panels.

Two panel sizes were investigated and were

- (i) 85 meshes deep
- (ii) 128 meshes deep.



1200pk (882kW) - 10.5m



% of fish that escape through the panels

Top panel size	85 meshes deep	128 meshes deep
Cod	-12	-12
Whiting	-48	-66
Haddock	-43	-63
Sole	-6	-13
Plaice	0.3	-1

RESULTS

Large amounts of haddock and whiting escape through the top square mesh panels and the larger the panel the greater the number of fish that escape.

There is a small loss of target flatfish species sole and no loss of plaice.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Fonteyne, R., 1997. Optimization of a species selective beam trawl (SOBETRA).

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