# 115mm and 155mm square mesh panels in the body of a trawl

to improve size selection and reduce undersized haddock in ICES Area VII

#### TARGET SPECIES

Cod, haddock and other demersal species

#### AREA, VESSEL

10 hauls with a twin-rig; onboard MFV Our Olivia Belle in the Celtic Sea during September 2014

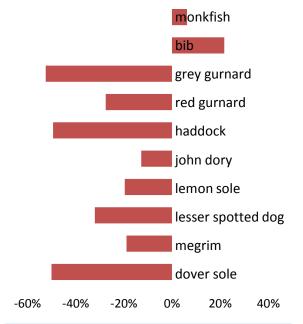
#### **GEAR MODIFICATION**

The standard gear was a 115mm mesh size trawl with a 87mm codend.

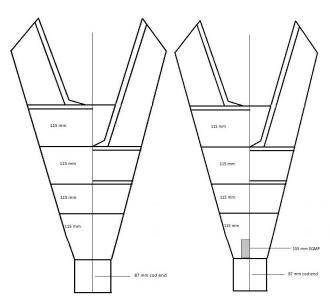
The modified gear had a 155mm SMP fitted 2.5-5.5m from codline



Percentage difference in weight of landed catches



## Standard trawl Experimental Trawl



#### RESULTS

There were significant and substantial reductions in catches of cod and haddock of all sizes in the modified gear.

There were also substantial losses of most other marketable fish.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

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