

# using square mesh panels to reduce discarding of horse mackerel, mackerel, blue whiting and juvenile hake in the Basque pair trawl fishery

## TARGET SPECIES

**hake**

## AREA, VESSEL

21 hauls took place during several cruises in 2015 and 2016 in the Basque pair trawl fishery.

## GEAR MODIFICATION

The effectiveness of 86 mm and 100 mm mesh size SMPs in conjunction with a 100 mm diamond mesh codend were tested. A small mesh cover is used to catch the fish which escape through the SMPs.



## hake passing through the SMP

SMP mesh size	% of total catch	% < 27 cm	% > 27 cm of catch > 27 cm
86 mm	11	87	8
100 mm	12	64	6



## RESULTS

There is no significant difference between hake escape through the 86 mm and the 100 mm SMPs.

A large percentage of hake escaping through the 86 and 100 mm SMPs is undersized (87 and 64%, respectively).

Nevertheless some marketable fish (> 27 cm) escape from both SMPs: 8% from the 86 mm SMP and 6% from the 100 mm SMP.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

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