

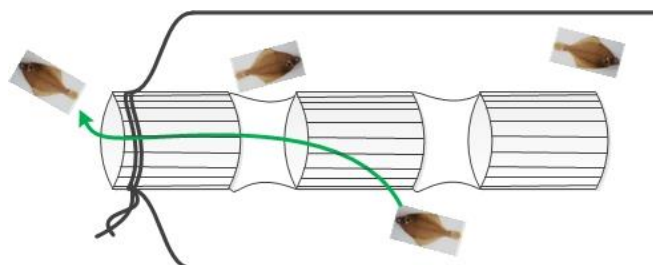
# using cylindrical grids in the codend to reduce flatfish discards in the Dutch *Nephrops* fishery

## TARGET SPECIES

marketable *Nephrops*, plaice, turbot and brill

## AREA, VESSEL

Catch comparison trials were carried out with a multi-rig (6) *Nephrops* trawl in the North Sea (ICES area IVc) on board the Grietje WR189 (23m, 300Hp).



## GEAR MODIFICATION

A tube made from three cylindrical grids and with an escape hole at the end was fitted inside a conventional 80 mm codend. The codline is tied around the escape hole which is at the base of the third grid. The idea is that undersized plaice, dab and *Nephrops* will enter the tube through the cylindrical grids and swim out the escape hole. Floats are attached to neutralize weight of the grid.

The catches of this gear were compared with those of the conventional 80 mm codend gear.



## RESULTS

- After initial testing on a commercial vessel the captain reported that the grid did work but did not reduce flatfish discards by 50%.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

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