

using an eBRP in the beam trawl fishery to reduce benthos bycatch

TARGET SPECIES

Sole

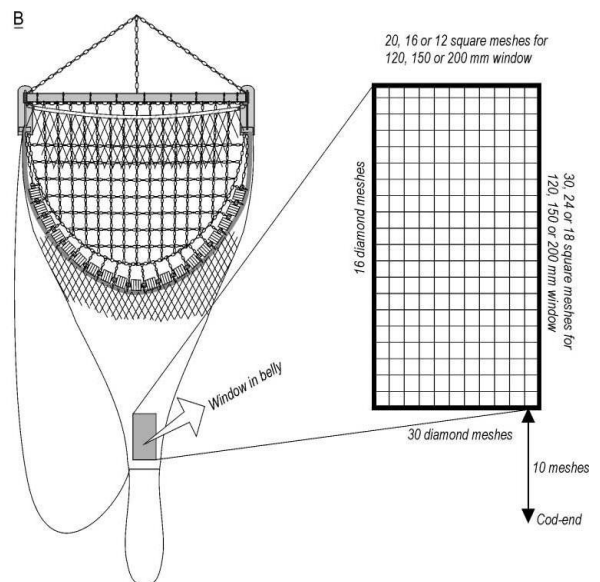
AREA, VESSEL

16 beam trawl tows were carried out in the North Sea (ICES IVc) on board the RV Belgica

GEAR MODIFICATION

Benthos release panels (BRPs) release large amounts of unwanted benthos and debris from demersal beam trawls. Here an 80Hz electric cramp stimulus is combined with a BRP to prevent sole from escaping.

The catches from a beam trawl with an eBRP was compared with a standard beam trawl.



	240 mm BRP versus standard net	240 mm eBRP versus standard net
Benthos	-71%	-82%
Debris	-61%	-74%
Undersized fish	-28%	-32%
sole	-41%	-17%

RESULTS

Adding a 80 Hz electric cramp stimulus to the BRP, resulted in equal catches of sole larger than 25 cm compared to the standard net, without negatively affecting the release of benthos and most undersized commercial fish. Some sole of 24 and 25 cm were still lost.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Soetaert et al. (2016) Reducing bycatch in beam trawls and electrotrawls with (electrified) benthos release panels. ICES Journal of Marine Science
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