

The effect of a divided codend on the discard survival of undersized plaice in the Danish Norway lobster trawl fishery

AIM

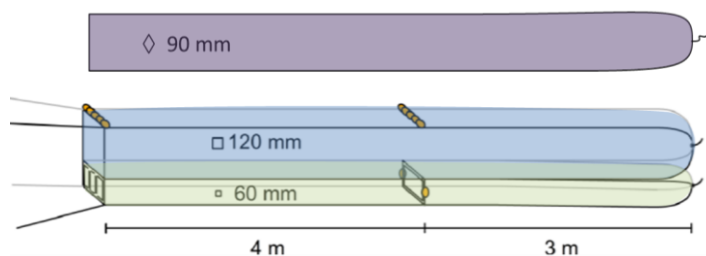
To estimate the discard survival of undersized plaice in the Danish bottom trawl fishery.

TARGET SPECIES

European plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*)

AREA, VESSEL

Skagerrak (ICES IIIa) on board S84 Ida-Katrine (15.1 m, 221 kW)



GEAR MODIFICATION

A commercial twin rig trawl gear was fished. A standard 90 mm diamond mesh codend was attached to one net, and a horizontally divided codend with 120mm square mesh in the upper panel and 60mm square mesh in the lower panel was attached to the other.

FISHING OPERATIONS

The trials took place during the winter when targeting Norway lobster. The catch was sorted on deck following usual commercial practise. Undersized plaice that would have previously been discarded, were placed in specially designed holding tanks.

RESULTS

There was no difference in survival probability of undersized plaice between the lower compartment of the modified codend and the standard codend after 14 days in captivity.

There was an indication of higher survival of undersized plaice in the upper compartment of the modified codend.



FURTHER INFORMATION

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