

# FLEXSELECT: a counter-herding device to reduce bycatch in Norway lobster trawl fisheries

## AIM

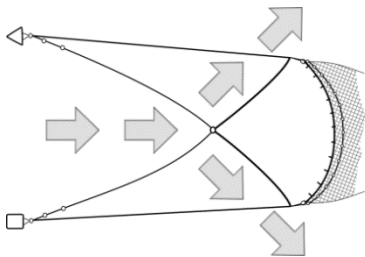
To reduce the bycatch of both roundfish and flatfish in the Norway lobster trawl fishery.

## TARGET SPECIES

Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*)

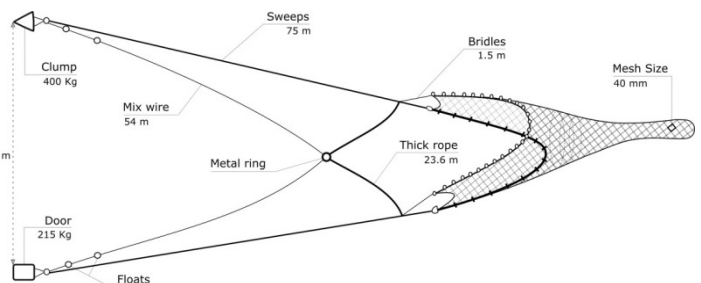
## AREA, VESSEL

The trial took place in the Skagerrak (ICES IIIa) on board RV Havfisken (17 m, 373 kW)



## GEAR MODIFICATION

The device, tested in a twin trawl rig against a control gear, consisted of four lines (mix wires and thick ropes) connected to a central metal ring, located approximately 20m ahead of the trawl mouth.



Species	N valid hauls	N individuals measured	Mean effect
Nephrops	4	5850	+ 7 %
Cod	13	4350	- 8 %
Haddock	12	6850	- 61 %
Whiting	17	15250	- 55 %
Plaice	16	12100	- 27 %
Lemon sole	11	2050	- 65 %

## RESULTS

**FLEXSELECT** did not affect Norway lobster catch, while showing a significant reduction in bycatch of all fish species. The intensity of the effect varied among species and was strongly length-dependent for most roundfish species.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

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