

decreasing codend circumference to reduce whiting discards in a *Nephrops* trawl

AIM

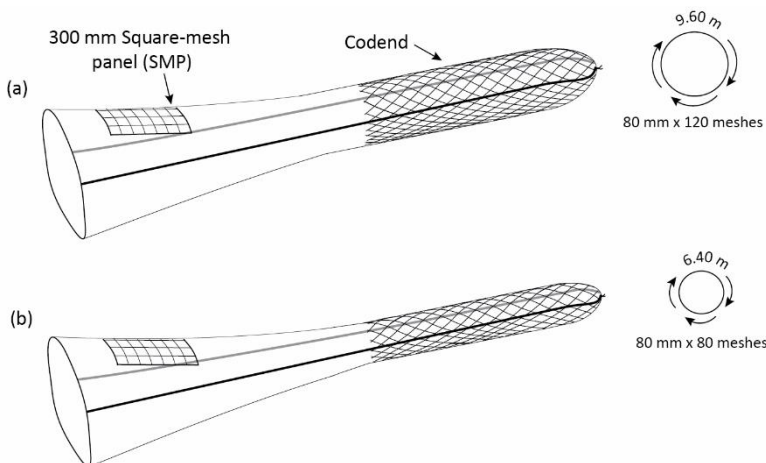
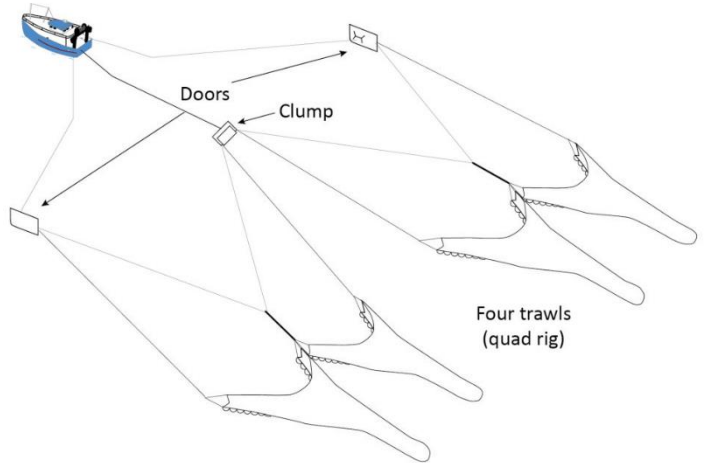
To assess the effect of decreasing codend circumference on catches of whiting.

TARGET SPECIES

Nephrops norvegicus

AREA, VESSEL

The 12 haul quad-rig catch comparison trial took place in the Irish Sea (ICES 7a) on board a 23 m, 328 kW trawler during February 2018.



GEAR MODIFICATION

The test codend was constructed from 80mm* mesh with a circumference of 80 meshes round.

The standard codend was constructed from 80mm* mesh with a circumference of 120 meshes round.

A 300 mm square meshed panel was fitted between 9 and 12 m from the codline on both gears.

The fishing circle of the quad-rigged *Nephrops* trawls was 400 X 80mm*.

*nominal mesh size

RESULTS

Moderate reductions in catches of whiting below MCRS of 27 cm.

Greatest reductions in very small whiting < 20 cm.

Total *Nephrops* catches reduced by 14% (by weight) and 8% (by value).

Species	Standard 80 mm (kg)	Test 80 mm (kg)	Difference (%)
Whiting <27 cm	229	215	-6
Whiting <20 cm	144	122	-15
<i>Nephrops</i>	444	383	-14

FURTHER INFORMATION

<http://www.bim.ie/our-publications/fisheries/>

