

# increasing codend mesh size from 80 to 90mm to reduce whiting discards in a *Nephrops* trawl

## AIM

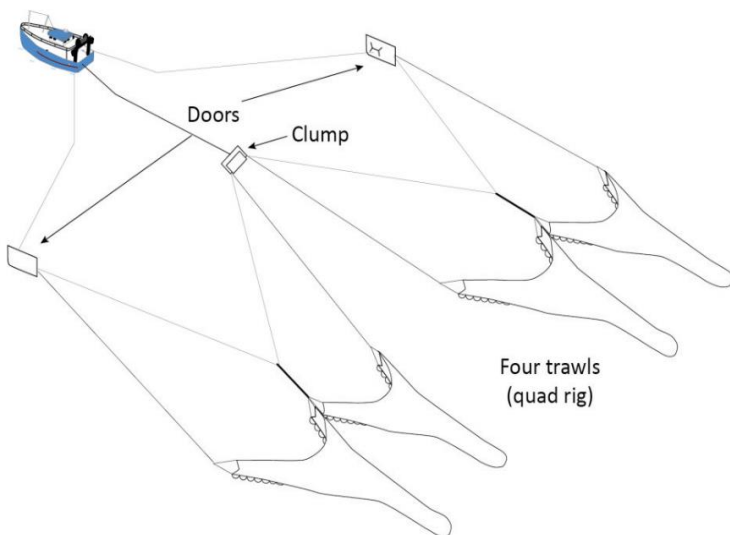
To assess the effect of a codend mesh size increase on catches of whiting.

## 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.

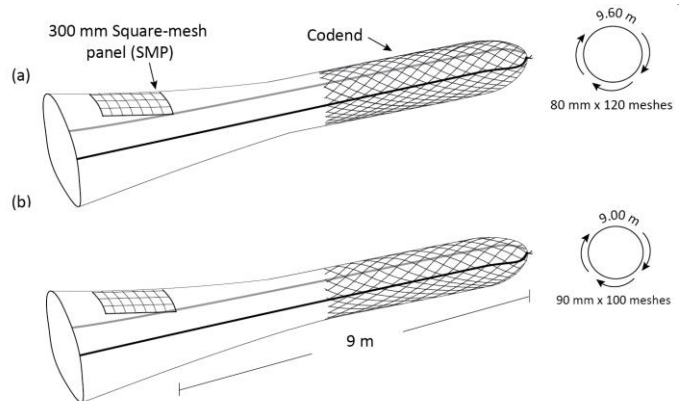


## RESULTS

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

Greatest reductions in very small whiting < 20 cm.

Total *Nephrops* catches reduced by 33 % (by weight) and 23 % (by value).



## GEAR MODIFICATION

The test codend and extension piece were constructed from 90mm\* diamond mesh with 100 meshes in circumference. The standard codend and extension piece were constructed from 80mm\* diamond mesh with 120 meshes in circumference. 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

Species	Standard 80 mm (kg)	90 mm (kg)	Difference (%)
Whiting <27 cm	229	121	-47
Whiting <20 cm	144	57	-60
<i>Nephrops</i>	444	295	-33

## FURTHER INFORMATION

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

