



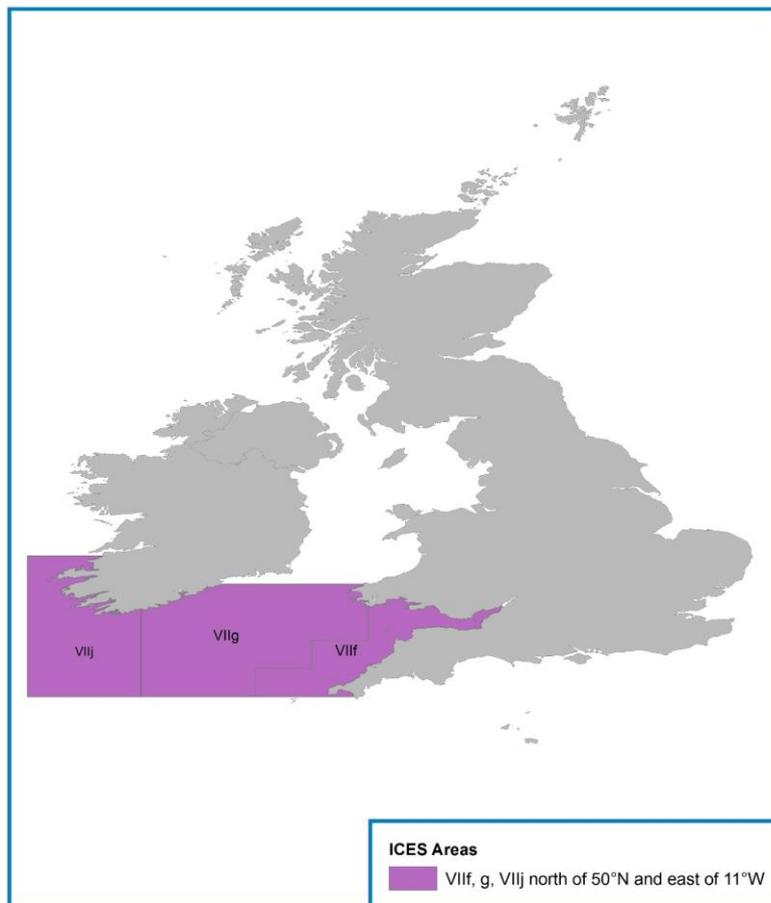
Marine
Management
Organisation

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Landing Obligation Guidance 2019

**Applicable to Demersal Towed Gears
Fishing in the Celtic Sea**

(Excluding Nephrops Vessels and Beam Trawlers)



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ICES Statistical Areas dataset 2010. ICES, Copenhagen



Introduction

This document needs to be read in conjunction with the Landing Obligation overview guidance document which explains the general rules. This document explains rules specific to the Celtic Sea Protection Zone which includes ICES Areas VIIIf, g and the part of VIIj that lies North of 50°N and East of 11°W.

You must ensure that the following rules are complied with:

1. All catches of quota species must be kept on board, landed and counted against quota, except where the exemptions listed below apply.
2. All catches and discards must be recorded in your fishing logbook.
3. Any fish returned to the sea under the exemptions described below must be kept in good condition in order to maximise their survival chances. This includes keeping them wet, handling them carefully and releasing them promptly.

Survival Exemptions

These exemptions allow you to discard fish under certain conditions based on the likelihood of a fish being able to survive being caught and returned to the sea.

You are permitted to discard certain species of fish provided you comply with the conditions specified in the table below:

Fish Species you can Discard	Fishing Gear	ICES Area	Conditions
Skates and Rays	All Gears	All Celtic Sea Areas	No Conditions
Plaice (PLE)	Otter Trawlers	VIIIf and g	No Conditions
Nephrops (NEP)	Demersal Trawls	All Celtic Sea Areas	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 100 mm



De minimis Exemptions

The *De minimis* exemption allows a small percentage of the total catch of certain species to be discarded because it is difficult to completely avoid unwanted catches.

It is important that discards are recorded in your logbook. *De minimis* exemptions may be withdrawn where discard levels are too high.

The following species can be discarded under *De minimis* rules subject to conditions:

Fish Species you can Discard	Fishing Gear	ICES Area	Conditions
Whiting (WHG)	Demersal Trawls, Seines and Pair Trawls	All Celtic Sea Areas	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80 mm.
Haddock (HAD)	Demersal Trawls, Seines and Pair Trawls	All Celtic Sea Areas	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80 mm.
Cod (COD)	Demersal Trawls, Seines and Pair Trawls	All Celtic Sea Areas	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80 mm.
Horse Mackerel (JAX)	Demersal Trawls, Seines and Pair Trawls	All Celtic Sea Areas	No Conditions.
Mackerel (MAC)	Demersal Trawls, Seines and Pair Trawls	All Celtic Sea Areas	No Conditions.



Selective Gear Requirements

Selective gear requirements apply from 1st July 2019 for vessels fishing in the Celtic Sea Protection Zone. This area includes VIIIf, VIIg, and the part of VIIj North of 50° N and East of 11° W.

You must use one of the gear options shown in the table below.

Species Caught	Fishing Gear Options
<p>If your target species or catch does not meet any of the criteria below.</p>	<p>You must use one of the gear options listed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 110 mm cod-end and 120 mm square mesh panel* 2) 100 mm T90 cod-end. 3) 100 mm cod-end and 160 mm square mesh panel*
<p>Whiting (WHG) – if more than 55 % of your catch</p> <p>or:</p> <p>Anglerfish (ANF), Hake (HKE), or Megrin (MEG) combined - if more than 55 % of your catch</p>	<p>You must use one of the gear options listed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 100 mm cod-end and 100 mm square mesh panel*. 2) 90 mm T90 cod-end and extension. 3) 80 mm cod-end and 160 mm square mesh panel* 4) 80 mm cod-end and 2 m x 100 mm square mesh cylinder.
<p>Gadoids - if you are fishing in ICES Area VIIIf East of 5° West and there are less than 10 % Gadoids in your catch</p>	<p>80 mm cod-end and 120 mm square mesh panel*</p>

* Installed in accordance with current technical conservation regulations (EC 850/98)¹.

¹ Regulation (EC) 850/98 may be viewed at URL: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:31998R0850&rid=1>