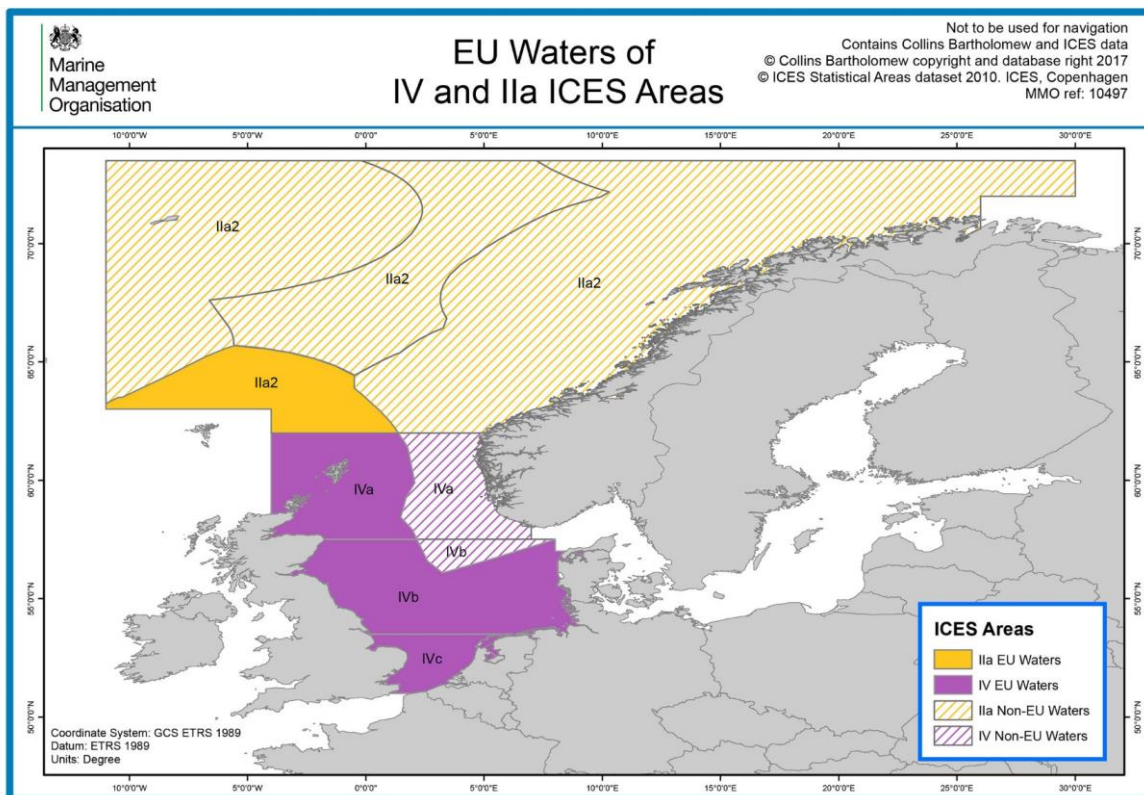




Landing Obligation Guidance 2019

Applicable to Beam Trawlers
Fishing in the North Sea





Introduction

This document needs to be read in conjunction with the Landing Obligation overview guidance document which explains the general rules. This document provides guidance on the exemptions specific to the North Sea in ICES Areas IIa and IV, but does not include Norwegian waters. Norwegian discard rules must be followed if fishing in Norwegian waters.

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 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.



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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	ICES Area	Conditions
Skates and Rays	IIa and IV	No Conditions
Plaice (PLE) below the minimum size of 27 cm	IIa and IV	Cod-end mesh size of 80 mm to 119 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 *De minimis* exemptions may be withdrawn where discard levels are too high.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	ICES Area	Conditions
Dover Sole (SOL) below the minimum size of 24 cm	IV	All conditions listed below must be met: Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80 mm. A Flemish Panel* must be fitted.
Horse Mackerel (JAX)	IV	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80 mm.
Mackerel (MAC)	IV	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80 mm.
Whiting (WHG) below the minimum size of 27 cm	IV	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80 mm.

* 'Flemish Panel' means the last tapered netting section of a beam trawl whose:

- posterior is directly attached to the cod-end
- upper and lower netting sections are constructed of at least 120 mm mesh as measured between the knots
- stretched length is at least 3 m