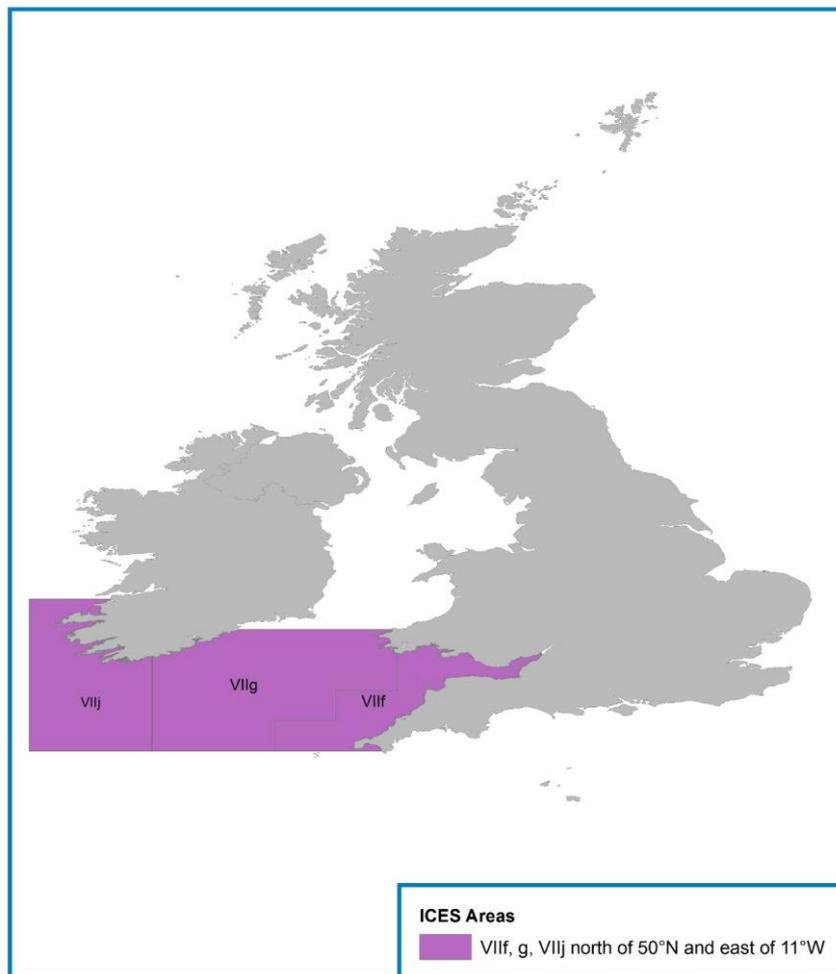




Landing Obligation Guidance 2019

Applicable to the Celtic Sea Nephrops Fishery



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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 Nephrops vessels fishing in the Celtic Sea ICES Areas VIIIf, g and j (North of 50° N and east of 11° W).

This guidance is written for Nephrops fishing vessels using 70 mm to 99 mm cod-end mesh size. If you are using a larger mesh, you may have fewer restrictions. Please consult your local Fisheries Management Office for further information.

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.

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	All Celtic Sea Areas	No Conditions
Nephrops (NEP)	All Celtic Sea Areas	No Conditions
Plaice (PLE)	VIIIf and g	No Conditions.



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 *De minimis* exemptions may be withdrawn where discard levels are too high.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
Whiting (WHG)	All Celtic Sea Areas	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80 mm.
Haddock (HAD)	All Celtic Sea Areas	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80 mm.
Cod (COD)	All Celtic Sea Areas	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80 mm.
Horse Mackerel (JAX)	All Celtic Sea Areas	No Conditions.
Mackerel (MAC)	All Celtic Sea Areas	No Conditions.



Selective Gear Requirements

Selective gear requirements apply from 1st July 2019 for vessels fishing in the Celtic Sea ICES Areas VIIIf, g and j (North of 50°N and east of 11°W).

You must use one of the gear options shown in the table below. For each gear option, technical information on what is required and how to fit the gear correctly is provided in the text following the table.

Fishing Gear Options
You must use one of the gear options listed below
1) SELTRA Panel**.
2) Sorting Grid with 35 mm bar spacing as defined in Annex XIVa of Regulation (EC) 850/98 ¹ or a similar Netgrid*** selectivity device. Refer to pages 5 and 6 for details of the CEFAS Net Grid.
3) 100 mm cod-end and 100 mm square mesh panel*.
4) 300 mm square mesh panel* (for fishing vessels of 12 m or more LOA). or: 200 mm square mesh panel* (for fishing vessels under 12 m LOA).

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

** The Seltra Panel² means a selectivity device which:

- consists of a top panel of at least 270 mm mesh size (diamond mesh) placed in a four-panel section and mounted with a joining ratio of three meshes of 90 mm to one mesh of 270 mm, or of a top panel of at least 140 mm mesh size (square mesh)
- is at least 3 metres long and is positioned no more than 4 metres from the cod line
- is the full width of the top sheet of the trawl (i.e. from selvedge to selvedge)

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>

² Refer to: COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2018/2034 of 18 October 2018 establishing a discard plan for certain demersal fisheries in North-Western waters for the period 2019 - 2021



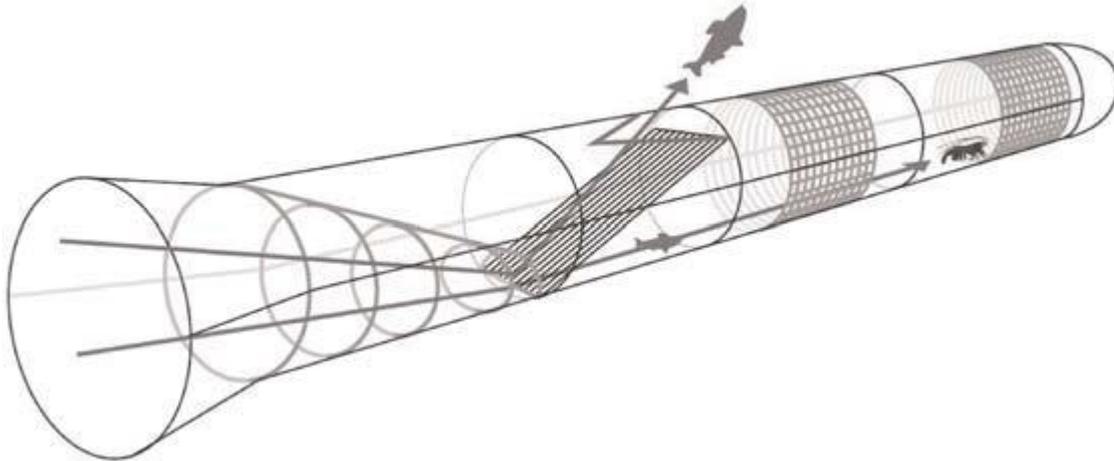
*** A Netgrid selectivity device means a selectivity device consisting of a four panel section inserted into a two-panel trawl with an inclined sheet of diamond mesh netting with a mesh size of at least 200 mm leading to an escape hole in the top of the trawl.

CEFAS Net Grid

Defined as a Netgrid selectivity device developed by The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science for catches of Nephrops (*Nephrops norvegicus*) in the Irish Sea.

Specification:

1. The species selective grid shall be attached in trawls with full square mesh cod-end with a mesh size equal to or larger than 70 millimetres and smaller than 90 millimetres. The minimum length of the cod-end shall be 8 metres. It shall be prohibited to use any trawl with more than 100 square meshes in any circumference of the cod-end, excluding the joining or the selvages. The square mesh cod-end is required only in Skagerrak and Kattegat.
2. The grid shall be rectangular. The bars of the grid shall be parallel to the longitudinal axis of the grid. The bar spacing of the grid shall not exceed 35 mm. It shall be permitted to use one or more hinges in order to facilitate its storage on the net drum.
3. The grid shall be mounted diagonally in the trawl, upwards and backwards, anywhere from just in front of the cod-end to the anterior end of the untapered section. All sides of the grid shall be attached to the trawl.
4. In the upper panel of the trawl there shall be an unblocked fish outlet in immediate connection to the upper side of the grid. The opening of the fish outlet shall have the same width in the posterior side as the width of the grid and shall be cut out to a tip in the anterior direction along mesh bars from both sides of the grid.
5. It shall be permitted to attach in front of the grid a funnel to lead the fish towards the trawl floor and grid. The minimum mesh size of the funnel shall be 70 millimetres. The minimum vertical opening of the guiding funnel towards the grid shall be 15 cm. The width of the guiding funnel towards the grid shall be the grid width.



Schematic illustration of a size and species selective trawl. Entering fish are led towards the trawl floor and grid via a leading funnel. Larger fish are then led out of the trawl by the grid while smaller fish and Norway lobster pass through the grid and enter the cod-end. The full square mesh cod-end enhances escapement of small fish and undersized Norway lobster. The square mesh cod-end shown in the diagram is required only in Skagerrak and Kattegat.