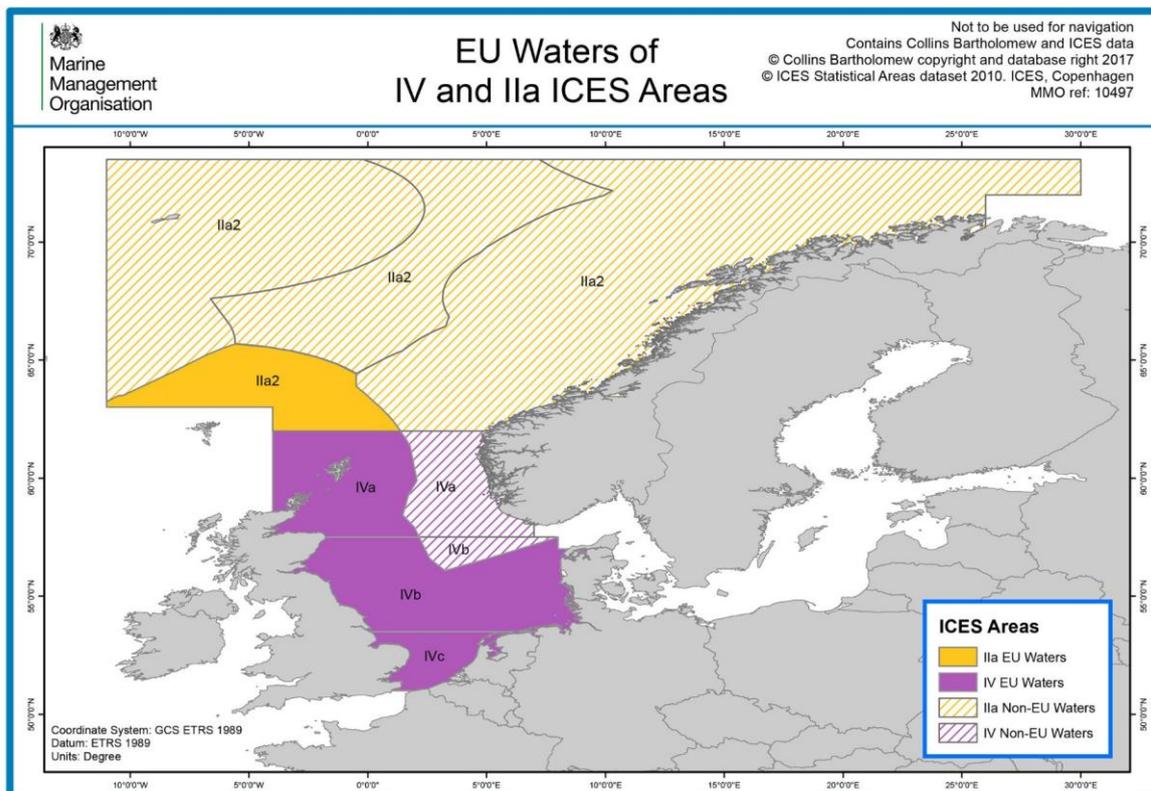




Landing Obligation Guidance 2019

Applicable to Demersal Towed Gears
Fishing in the North Sea

(Excluding Nephrops Vessels and Beam Trawlers)





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 North Sea ICES Areas IIa and IV.

This guidance 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.



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	IV and IIa	No Conditions
Dover Sole (SOL) below the minimum size (24 cm)	Otter Trawlers	IVc	All conditions listed below must be met: Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80 mm. Fishing takes place no more than 6 Nautical Miles (NM) from the coast. The depth of water is no more than 30 m. The fishing vessel is no more than 10 m long (LOA). The towing time is less than 1.5 hours duration. Maximum engine power is 221 kW.
Plaice (PLE)	Danish Seine	IV	No Conditions
Plaice (PLE)	Otter Trawlers (or pair trawlers)	IV	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 120 mm. Discarding only allowed from 1 st November to 30 th April inclusive.
Nephrops (NEP)	Otter Trawlers	IV and IIa	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80 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
Whiting (WHG) below the minimum size of 27 cm	IV	Otter trawls and Seines: Cod-end mesh size of 80 mm to 99 mm.
Cod (COD) below the minimum size of 35 cm	IV	Otter trawls and Seines: Cod-end mesh size of 80 mm to 99 mm.
Ling (LIN) below the minimum size of 63 cm	IV	Otter trawls and Pair trawls: Cod-end mesh size of 100 mm to 119 mm.
Ling (LIN)	IV	Otter trawls and Pair trawls: Minimum cod-end mesh size of 120 mm.
Horse Mackerel (JAX)	IV	Otter trawls and Pair trawls: Cod-end mesh size of 80 mm to 99 mm.
Mackerel (MAC)	IV	Otter trawls and Pair trawls: Cod-end mesh size of 80 mm to 99 mm.