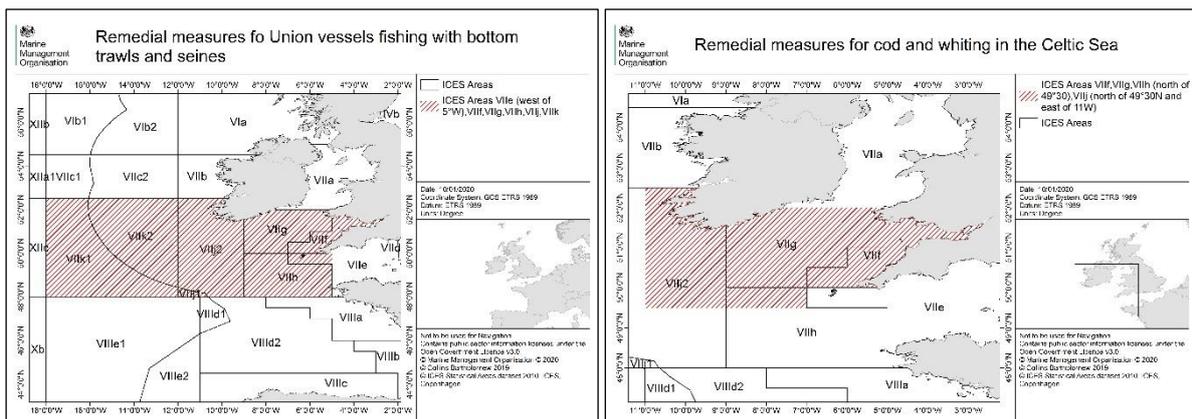




Fishing gear requirements and Landing Obligation exemptions 2020

Applicable to Demersal Towed Gears Fishing in the Celtic Sea (excluding Beam Trawlers)

See separate guidance for Nephrops vessels.



Celtic Sea Protection Zones (Outer and Inner)

Introduction

This document explains rules on which fishing gear you should be using in the Celtic Sea area (also known as the Celtic Sea Protection Zone).

Please note: The Celtic Sea Protection Zone has increased in area from last year and includes ICES divisions VIIf to VIIk and in the area west of longitude 5°W in ICES division VIIe. This document summarises which Landing Obligation exemptions are available to you.

This guidance is for all sizes of fishing vessel (including those under 10 metres). It does not cover IFCA byelaws – please consult your local IFCA for further information.



General fishing gear rules - All mesh sizes given in this document are minimum sizes. You can choose to use a larger mesh than that stated.

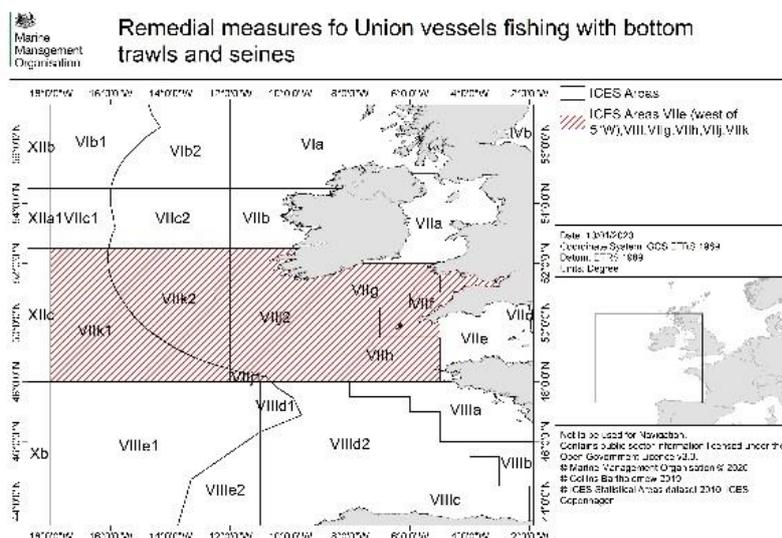
- 6mm maximum for single twine cod-ends.
- 4mm maximum for double twine thickness
- An 80mm derogation applies in any part of VIIIf East of the 5°W line, where the catch of gadoids (cod, haddock and saithe) caught, are less than 10% of the total catch over a full trip. The derogation allows an 80mm cod-end provided the trawl is fitted with a 120mm square mesh panel. The derogation remains in place to allow the sole fishery to remain viable and is subject to any review of the current legislation.

Celtic Sea Protection Zone

Selective gear requirements apply for vessels fishing in the Celtic Sea Protection Zone. From 2020, the Celtic Sea protection zone effectively has two areas (an outer and an inner CSPZ zone) where gears rules differ.

CSPZ Outer zone

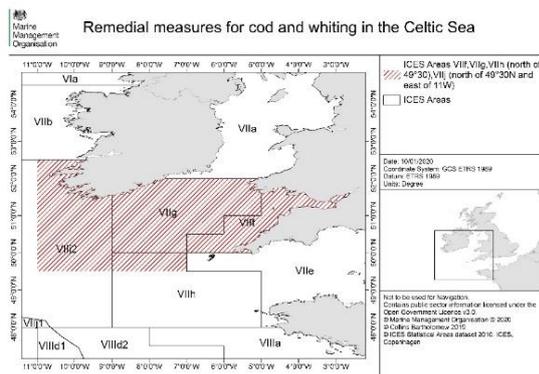
Demersal trawlers (including seines) must operate using a 100mm cod-end when operating in the outer CSPZ zone (within ICES divisions VIIIf to VIIIk and in the area west of longitude 5°W in ICES division VIIe).





CSPZ Inner zone

The following remedial measures apply to vessels fishing with demersal trawls and seines in ICES divisions from VIIf, VIlg, the part of VIIh north of latitude 49°30' North and the part of VIIj North of latitude 49°30' North and East of longitude 11° West.



Demersal trawlers that catch less than 20% haddock (based on landed live weight) must operate using;

- 1) 100mm cod-end

Demersal trawlers that catch more than 20% haddock must operate using one of the following gear requirements;

- 1) 110mm cod-end and 120mm square mesh panel*
- 2) 100mm T90 cod-end.
- 3) 120mm cod-end.
- 4) 100mm cod-end and 160mm square mesh panel* (For trawlers until 31st May 2020)

From 1st June onwards, raised fishing lines must be required with a minimum of 1 meter spacing between line and ground gear.

Landing Obligation exemptions

In the table below is a brief summary of exemptions from the Landing Obligation for these fisheries which allow you to discard fish. All quantities of fish discarded under the Landing Obligation must be recorded in your logbook, but will not come off your quota.

You must ensure that the following rules are complied with:

- All catches of quota species must be kept on board, landed and counted against quota, except where the exemptions listed below apply.
- All catches and discards must be recorded in your logbook.
- 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 - 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.

De minimis exemptions - 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.

Fish Species you can Discard	Fishing Gear	ICES Area	Exemption
Skates and Rays	All Gears	All Areas	Survival
Plaice (PLE)	Otter and Pair Trawlers	VIIe, to VIIg	Survival
Nephrops (NEP)	Demersal Trawls	VII	Survival
Whiting (WHG), Mackerel (MAC) and Horse Mackerel (JAX)	Demersal Trawls, Seines and Pair Trawls	VIIb to VIIk	<i>De Minimis</i>
Haddock (HAD)	Demersal Trawls, Seines and Pair Trawls	VIIb, VIIc and VIIe to VIIk	<i>De Minimis</i>
Boarfish	Demersal Trawls and Pair Trawls	VIIb, VIIc and VIIf to VIIk	<i>De Minimis</i>