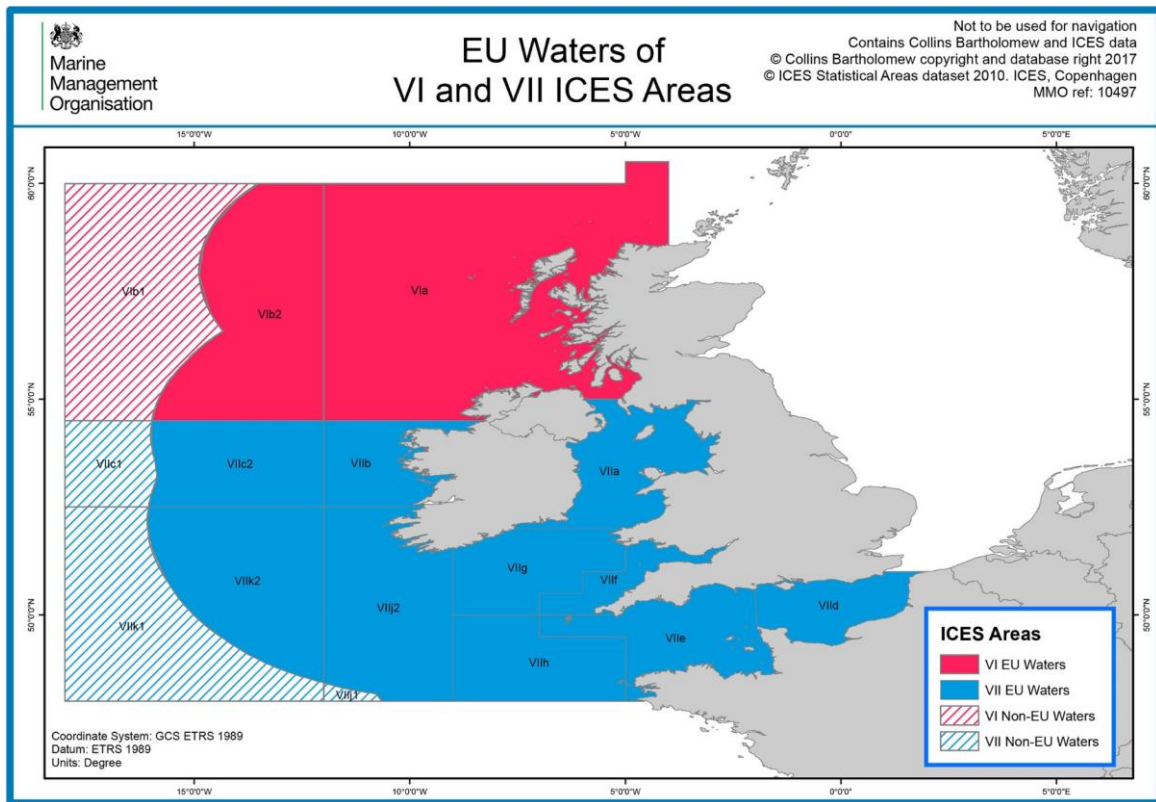




Landing Obligation Guidance 2019

Applicable to Beam Trawlers Fishing in North Western Waters





Marine Management Organisation



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**
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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 North Western 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 and the fish are released immediately and below the sea surface.

Fish Species you can Discard	ICES Area	Conditions
Skates and Rays	VI and VII	No Conditions.
Plaice (PLE)	VIIa-k (inclusive)	<p>All conditions listed below must be met.</p> <p>For fishing vessels with an engine power of 221 kW or less:</p> <p>The fishing vessel is no more than 24 m long (LOA).</p> <p>The towing time is no more than 1.5 hours duration (1 hour and 30 minutes).</p> <p>Fishing within 12 nautical miles of the coast.</p> <p>For fishing vessels with an engine power of more than 221 kW:</p> <p>Uses beam trawls fitted with a flip-up rope* or Benthos** release panel.</p>

* Flip-up rope means a gear modification on demersal beam trawls to help prevent stones and boulders entering the trawl and causing damage to both gear and catches.

** A Benthos (or Benthic) release panel means a panel of larger mesh or square mesh netting fitted into the lower panel of a trawl, usually a beam trawl to release any benthos (benthic) material and seabed debris before it passes into the cod-end.



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)	VIIb-k	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80 mm.
Dover Sole (SOL)	VIIId-h (inclusive)	All conditions listed below must be met: Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80 mm. A Flemish Panel* must be fitted.
Haddock (HAD)	VIIb-c and VIIe-k	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80 mm.
Cod (COD)	VIIb-c and VIIe-k	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80 mm.
Horse Mackerel (JAX)	VIIb-k	No Conditions.
Mackerel (MAC)	VIIb-k	No Conditions.

* Flemish Panel means the last tapered netting section of a beam trawl, the posterior of which is directly attached to the cod-end. The upper and lower netting sections of the panel are constructed of at least 120 mm mesh as measured between the knots and the panel must have a stretched length of at least 3 m.