

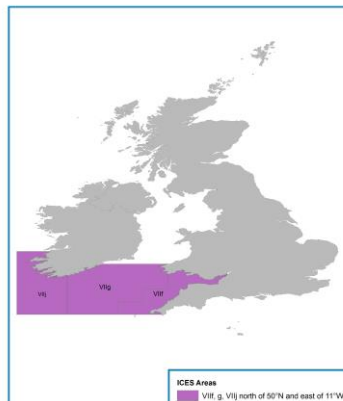


Marine
Management
Organisation

Fishing Gear requirements and Landing Obligation exemptions 2019

**Applicable to Demersal Towed Gears
Fishing in the Celtic Sea**

(Excluding Nephrops Vessels and Beam Trawlers)



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ICES Statistical Areas dataset 2010. ICES, Copenhagen

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). This area includes VIIg, VIIj, and the part of VIIj North of 50° N and East of 11° W. It also 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:



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- All mesh sizes given in this document are minimum sizes. You can choose to use a larger mesh than that stated.
- Twine thickness requirements are 6mm maximum for single twine and 4mm for double twine

Gear selectivity requirements

All mesh sizes specified are the minimum. Please note that a further proposed amendment to the rules below will come into force in 2020 that will enable demersal trawlers with more than 10% of sole to use an 80mm codend and 120mm square mesh panel.

Species Caught	Fishing Gear Options
If your target species or catch does not meet any of the criteria below, you must use one of these gear options.	You must use one of the gear options listed below: 1) 110 mm codend and 120 mm square mesh panel 2) 100 mm T90 codend. 3) 100 mm codend and 160 mm square mesh panel 4) 120 mm codend
Whiting – if more than 55 % of your catch or: Anglerfish, Hake, or Megrin combined - if more than 55 % of your catch	You must use one of the gear options listed below: 1) 100 mm cod-end and 100 mm square mesh panel 2) 90 mm T90 cod-end and extension 3) 80 mm cod-end and 160 mm square mesh panel 4) 80 mm cod-end and 2 m x 100 mm square mesh cylinder



If you are fishing in ICES Area VIIIf East of 5° West and there are less than 10 % Gadoids in your catch	80 mm cod-end and 120 mm square mesh panel
Pelagic species	16mm cod-end
Nephrops fishery (>5% NEP)	Please see separate guidance.

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.

We recommend that you also read the relevant [landing obligation guidance](#) for further information.

Fish Species you can Discard	Fishing Gear	ICES Area	Conditions
Skates and Rays	All Gears	All Celtic Sea Areas	No Conditions
Plaice	Otter Trawlers	VIIIf and g	No Conditions
Nephrops	Demersal Trawls	All Celtic Sea Areas	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 100 mm
Whiting	Demersal Trawls, Seines and Pair Trawls	All Celtic Sea Areas	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80mm
Haddock	Demersal Trawls, Seines and Pair Trawls	All Celtic Sea Areas	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80mm
Cod	Demersal Trawls, Seines and Pair Trawls	All Celtic Sea Areas	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80mm
Horse Mackerel	Demersal Trawls, Seines and Pair Trawls	All Celtic Sea Areas	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80mm
Mackerel	Demersal Trawls, Seines and Pair Trawls	All Celtic Sea Areas	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80mm