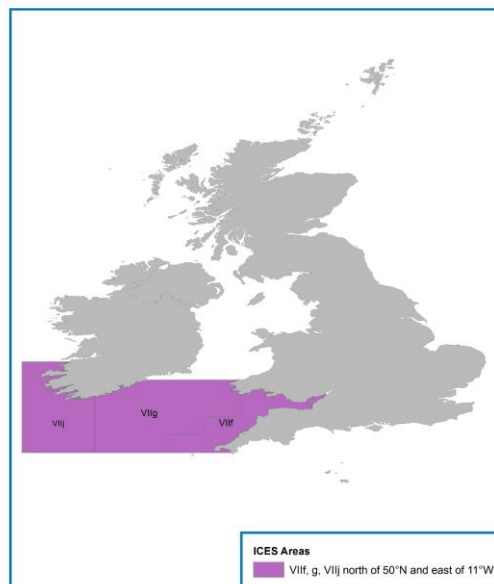




Marine
Management
Organisation

Fishing gear requirements and Landing Obligation exemptions 2019

Applicable to the Celtic Sea Nephrops Fishery



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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 VIIf, VIIg, 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. You are considered to be in the Nephrops fishery if your catch consists of 5% or more Nephrops.

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.



Marine Management Organisation

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.
- The baseline mesh size in this area is now a 100mm codend and this must be used where catches exceed 20% of cod haddock and saithe combined.
- Twine thickness requirements are 4mm maximum for double twine and 6 mm maximum for single twine codends.
- If you have a catch of less than 20% of cod, haddock and saithe combined, then you may use a mesh size below 100mm as specified below:

Gear selectivity requirements for vessels

All mesh sizes specified are the minimum.

Fishing Gear Options	
You must use one of the gear options listed below	
1)	80mm codend and SELTRA Panel
2)	80mm codend and sorting Grid with 35 mm bar spacing or a similar Netgrid selectivity device. Refer to pages 4 and 5 for details of the CEFAS Net Grid.
3)	100 mm codend and 100 mm square mesh panel.
4)	80mm codend and 300 mm square mesh panel (for fishing vessels of 12 m or more LOA). or: 80mm codend and 200 mm square mesh panel (for fishing vessels under 12 m LOA).
5)	Dual codend. The uppermost codend must be 90mm with T90 mesh. The uppermost codend must also be fitted with a separator panel of maximum 300mm mesh. The lower codend will be 80mm.



Landing Obligation exemptions

The table below is a summary of exemptions from the Landing Obligation for this fishery which allow you to discard certain species of fish. All quantities of fish discarded 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	ICES Area
Skates and Rays	All Celtic Sea Areas
Nephrops (NEP)	All Celtic Sea Areas
Plaice (PLE)	VII f and g
Whiting (WHG)	All Celtic Sea Areas
Haddock (HAD)	All Celtic Sea Areas
Cod (COD)	All Celtic Sea Areas
Horse Mackerel (JAX)	All Celtic Sea Areas
Mackerel (MAC)	All Celtic Sea Areas