



Fishing gear requirements and Landing Obligation exemptions 2019

Applicable to Demersal and Pelagic Towed Nets Fishing in the Irish Sea (excluding Nephrops vessels and Beam Trawlers)

Introduction

This document explains rules on which fishing gear you should be using in the Irish Sea. 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:

- All mesh sizes given in this document are minimum sizes. You can choose to use a larger mesh than that stated.
- Gear requirements for Irish Sea demersal and pelagic towed fisheries are set out in the table below.



Gear selectivity requirements

All mesh sizes specified are the minimum.

Fishery	Gear(s)	Fishing Gear Options
Whitefish fisheries where catches of cod, haddock, skates and rays (combined) exceed 10% of total catch weight.	Demersal trawls	Vessels over 12m must use one of: a) 120mm codend b) Eliminator trawl with 600mm large mesh panels and 100mm codend Vessels under 12m may be exempt from this pending EU approval.
Whitefish fisheries where catches of cod, haddock, skates and rays (combined) are less than 10% of total catch weight.	Demersal trawls	Vessels over 12m must use: 100mm codend and 100mm square mesh panel Vessels under 12m may be exempt from this pending EU approval.
Sole and non-TAC species	Demersal trawls	Pending EU approval, vessels under 12m may be able to use 80mm codend and 80mm square mesh panel
Queen scallops. Fisheries where catches of QSC exceed >85% of total catch weight.	Demersal trawls	80mm codend
Pelagic species	Pelagic trawls or seines	16mm codend
Nephrops fishery	Please see separate guidance	



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	Fishing Gear	ICES Area	Conditions
Skates and Rays	All Gears	VIIa	No Conditions
Nephrops (NEP)	Demersal Trawls	VIIa	Minimum codend mesh size of 100 mm