



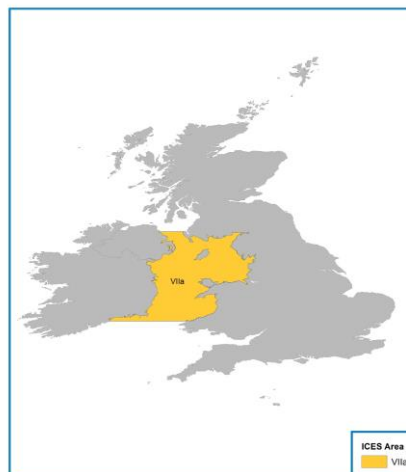
Marine  
Management  
Organisation



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**  
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# Fishing gear requirements and Landing Obligation exemptions 2019

**Applicable to Nephrops Vessels  
Fishing in the Irish Sea**



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## 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 selectivity requirements under the bycatch threshold

All mesh sizes specified are the minimum.

Fishery	Fishing Gear Options
Fisheries where catches of Nephrops exceed 5% of the total catch weight.	<p><b>You must use one of the gear options listed below</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) 70mm codend (single rig) or 80mm (multiple rig) and SELTRA Panel.</li><li>2) 70mm codend (single rig) or 80mm (multiple rig) and sorting grid with 35mm bar spacing</li><li>3) 70mm codend (single rig) or 80mm (multiple rig) and CEFAS Netgrid</li><li>4) 70mm codend (single rig) or 80mm (multiple rig) and Flip-flap trawl that meets the defined specification.</li><li>5) 70mm codend (single rig) or 80mm (multiple rig) <b>and a</b></li></ol> <p>300 mm square mesh panel (for fishing vessels of 12 m or more LOA).</p> <p><b>or:</b></p> <p>200 mm square mesh panel (for fishing vessels under 12 m LOA).</p>



## Marine Management Organisation

### 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.

<b>Fish Species you can Discard</b>	<b>ICES Area</b>
Skates and Rays	VIIa
Nephrops (NEP)	VIIa