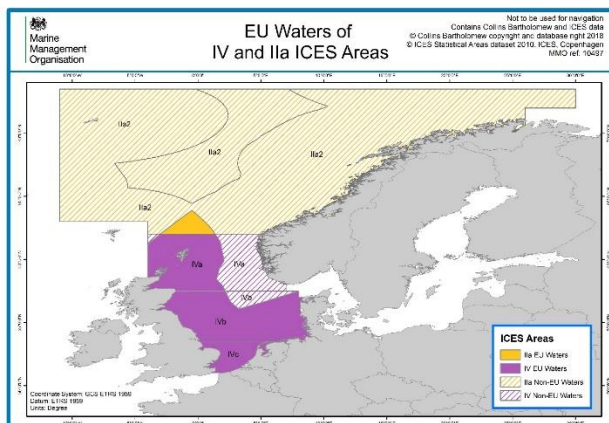




Fishing gear requirements and Landing Obligation exemptions 2019

Applicable to Beam trawlers Fishing in the North Sea



Introduction

This document explains the technical rules when using beam trawls in the North 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.



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- The baseline mesh size in this area is now a 120mm codend and this must be used where catches exceed 20% of cod haddock and saithe combined.
- Twine thickness requirements are 5mm maximum for double twine and 8 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 120mm as specified below:

Gear selectivity requirements

All mesh sizes specified are the minimum.

Table 1: Standard gears that you must use

ICES Area	Standard gears
IVb and c south of 55°N	80mm codend and a headline panel with at least 180mm mesh
IVb North of 55°N to 56°N	100mm codend and a headline panel with at least 180mm mesh
IVa and IVb North of 56°N	120mm codend and a headline panel with at least 180mm mesh

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.



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

Fish Species you can Discard	ICES Area	Conditions
Skates and Rays	IIa and IV	No Conditions
Plaice (PLE) below the minimum size of 27 cm	IIa and IV	Cod-end mesh size of 80 mm to 119 mm.
Dover Sole (SOL) below the minimum size of 24cm	IV	All conditions listed below must be met: Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80 mm. A Flemish Panel must be fitted.
Horse Mackerel (JAX)	IV	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80 mm.
Mackerel (MAC)	IV	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80 mm.
Whiting (WHG) below the minimum size of 27cm	IV	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80 mm.