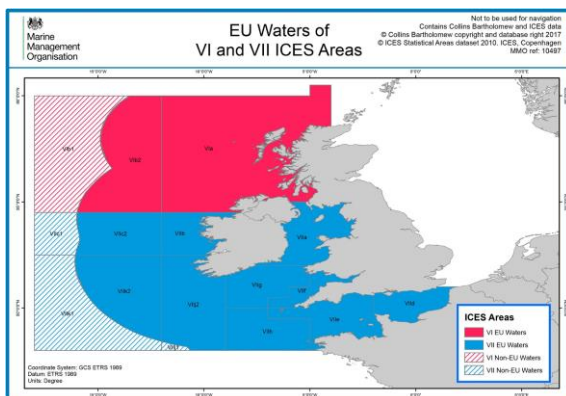




Fishing gear requirements and Landing Obligation exemptions 2019

Applicable to Beam Trawlers Fishing in North Western Waters



Introduction

This document explains rules on which fishing gear you should be using in North Western Waters which includes areas VI and VII. 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.
- 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.



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- 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

All mesh sizes specified are the minimum. **Table 1** below gives you the standard gears which you must use.

Table 1: Standard gears that you must use

Fishery	ICES Area	Standard gears
Sole and mixed demersal species	VIIa, b, e, f, g, h, and j	80mm codend and a headline panel with at least 180mm mesh
Sole and mixed demersal species	VIIId	80mm codend.



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	ICES Areas	Conditions
Skates and Rays	VI and VII	No Conditions.
Plaice	VII b-k (VIIa pending EU agreement)	Vessels with engine power greater than 221 kW and/or longer than 24 metres you must add one of: a flip-up rope, benthic release panel (or Flemish panel) Vessels with engine power of 221 kW or less and a maximum length of 24 metres. You can use this exemption if your tows are no more than one hour and thirty minutes.
Whiting	VIIb-k (inclusive)	Minimum codend mesh size of 80mm
Dover sole below minimum size	VIIId-h (inclusive)	All conditions listed below must be met: Minimum codend mesh size of 80mm You must use a Flemish panel
Haddock	VIIb-c and VIIe-k	Minimum codend mesh size of 80mm
Cod	VIIb-c and VIIe-k	Minimum codend mesh size of 80mm
Horse mackerel	VIIb-k	No conditions
Mackerel	VIIb-k	No conditions