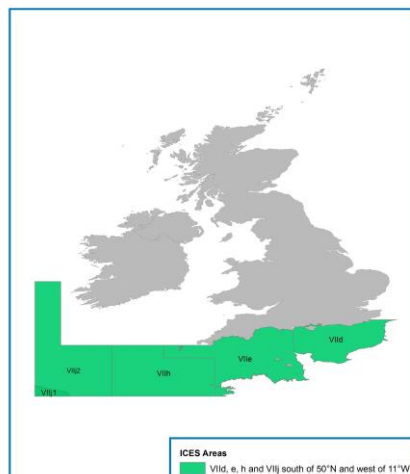




Marine  
Management  
Organisation

# Fishing gear requirements and Landing Obligation exemptions 2019

**Applicable to Demersal Trawls  
Fishing in the English Channel and Western Approaches  
(Excludes Beam Trawlers and Nephrops Vessels)**



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## Introduction

This document explains rules on which fishing gear you should be using in the English Channel and Western Approaches which includes VIIId, e, h and that part of VIIj not covered by the Celtic Sea measures.

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.

Please note that gear rules for demersal trawlers in VIIe and h may change later in 2019. If these changes happen, this guidance will be amended to reflect those changes.



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 (excluding Vlld and e) 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

All mesh sizes specified are the minimum.

<b>Fishery</b>	<b>Gear(s)</b>	<b>ICES Area</b>	<b>Conditions</b>
Sole or non-TAC species	Demersal Trawls	Whole Area	80mm codend and 80mm square mesh panel
Hake, Megrin and Anglerfish	Demersal Trawls	Whole Area	80mm codend and 120mm square mesh panel
Pelagic species	Pelagic species	Whole Area	At least 16mm (smaller mesh allowed for sandeel fishery)



## 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	Fishing Gear	ICES Area	Conditions
Skates and Rays	All Gears	Refer to Note 1 (below)	No Conditions
Dover Sole below the minimum size	Demersal Trawls	VIIId	<b>All conditions listed below must be met:</b> Minimum codend mesh size of 80 mm. Fishing takes place no more than 6 Nautical Miles (NM) from the coast. The depth of water is no more than 30 m. The towing time is less than 1 hour and 30 minutes. The fishing vessel is no more than 10 m long. The fishing vessel's engine power is 221 kW or less.
Plaice	Otter Trawlers	VIIId-VIIe	No Conditions
Nephrops	Demersal Trawls and Seines	Refer to Note 1 (below)	Minimum codend mesh size of 100 mm
Whiting	Demersal Trawls, Seines and Pair Trawlers	Refer to Note 1 (below)	Minimum codend mesh size of 80mm
Haddock	Demersal Trawls, Seines and Pair Trawlers	VIIe, h and j	Minimum codend mesh size of 80mm
Cod	Demersal Trawls, Seines and Pair Trawlers	VIIe, h and j	Minimum codend mesh size of 80mm
Horse Mackerel	Demersal Trawls, Seines and Pair Trawlers	Refer to Note 1 (below)	Minimum codend mesh size of 80mm
Mackerel	Demersal Trawls, Seines and Pair Trawlers	Refer to Note 1 (below)	Minimum codend mesh size of 80mm

**Note 1:** All areas of the English Channel and the Western Approaches.