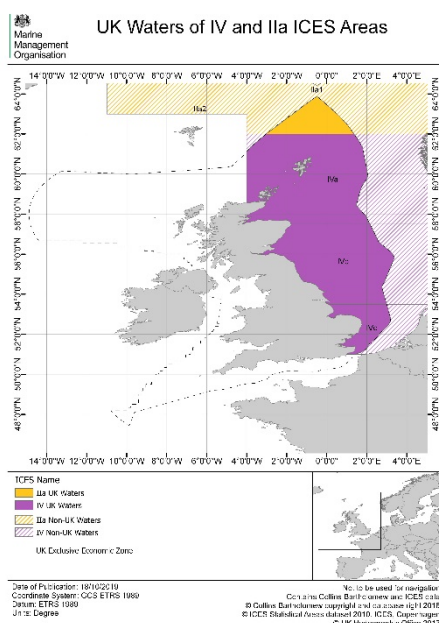Marine
Management
Organisation

Fishing gear requirements and Landing Obligation exemptions 2021

Applicable to the Longline fishing in UK waters of the North Sea

Introduction

This document needs to be read in conjunction with the Landing Obligation overview guidance document which explains the general rules. This document provides guidance on the exemptions specific to specific to longline fishing in UK waters of the North Sea in ICES Areas IIa and IV.

UK 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.

You must ensure that the following rules are complied with:

- All catches of quota species must be kept on board, landed and counted against quota, except where the exemptions listed below apply.

- All catches and discards must be recorded in your logbook.

- Any fish returned to the sea under the exemptions described below must be kept in good condition in order to maximise their survival chances. This includes keeping them wet, handling them carefully and releasing them promptly.

Survival exemptions - allow you to discard fish under certain conditions based on the likelihood of a fish being able to survive being caught and returned to the sea. You are permitted to discard certain species of fish provided you comply with the conditions specified in the table below.

De minimis exemptions - allows a small percentage of the total catch of certain species to be discarded because it is difficult to completely avoid unwanted catches. It is important that discards are recorded in your logbook. *De minimis* exemptions may be withdrawn where discard levels are too high.

Species you can discard	UK ICES Area	Exemption Type	Conditions
Skates and Rays	IIa and IV	Survival	No Conditions
Ling	IV	*De Minimis*	Applicable when targeting Hake