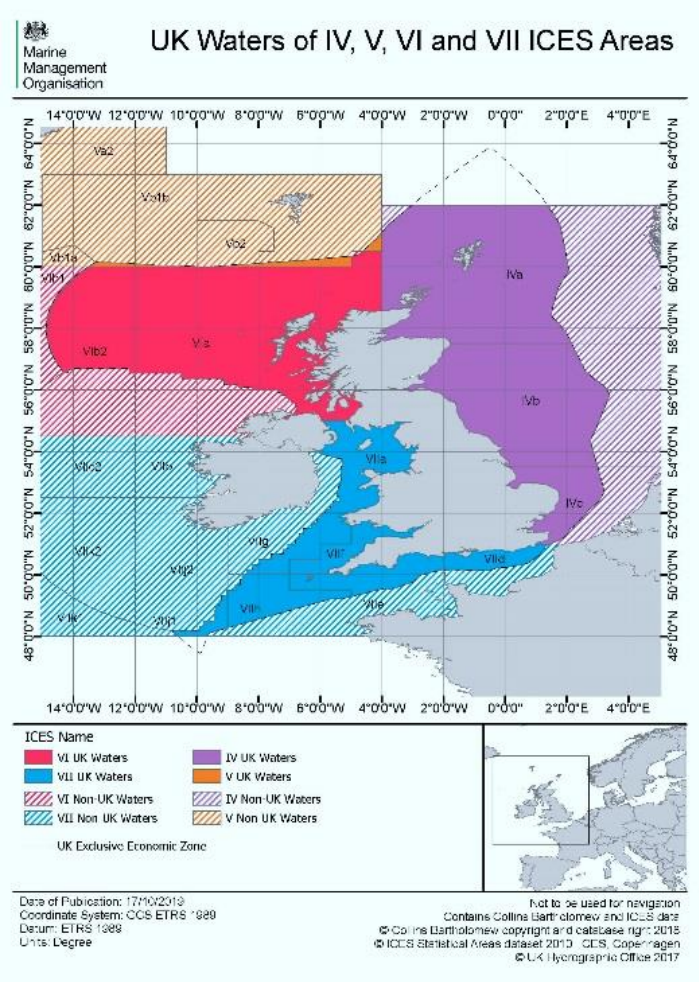
Document No.: V1
Date of Issue: January 2025

Marine Management Organisation

Fishing gear requirements and Landing Obligation exemptions Updated January 2025

Applicable to the Pots and Fyke net vessels fishing in UK waters of the North Sea and North-Western Waters



 Date of Printing: Tuesday, 28 January 2025

Marine Management Organisation

Introduction

To ensure you are accessing the latest guidance please check https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fisheries-management-landing-obligation

The guidance should 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 Pots and Fyke net vessels, fishing in the UK waters of North Sea in ICES Areas IIa and IV, and North-Western Waters in ICES Areas V, VI and VII.

When operating in EU waters please refer to the EC rules on discarding
https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/fisheries/rules/discarding-fisheries_en

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.

Marine Management Organisation

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	Gear	Exemption Type
Skates and Rays	IIa, IV, VI and VII	All Gears	Survival
All species (subject to catch limits)	IV, Vb, VI and VII	Pots and Fyke nets	Survival
Nephrops	IIa and IV, VI and VII	Pots	Survival