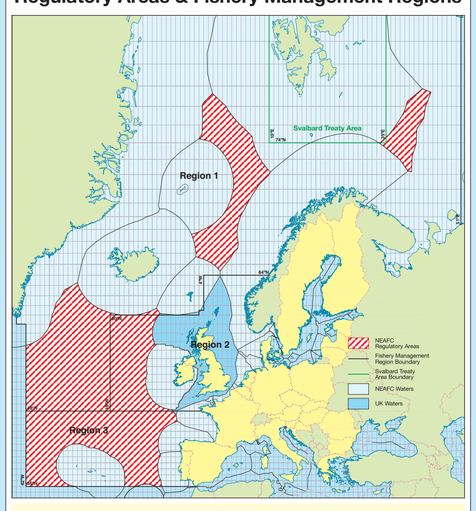
Fisheries Management 2021

BIM Ireland's Seafood Development Agency

North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission Regulatory Areas & Fishery Management Regions

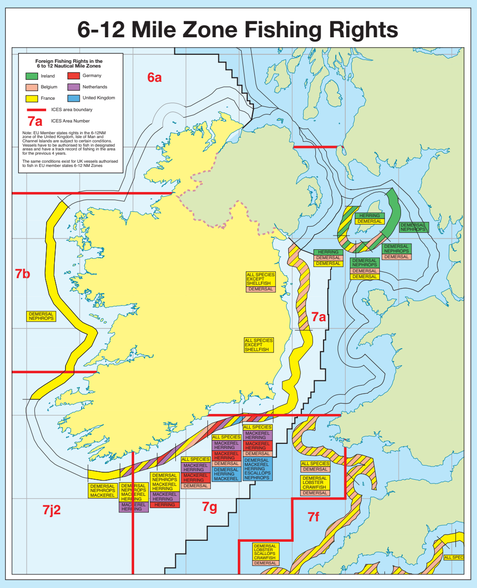


Baseline mesh sizes in North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) Regulatory Area

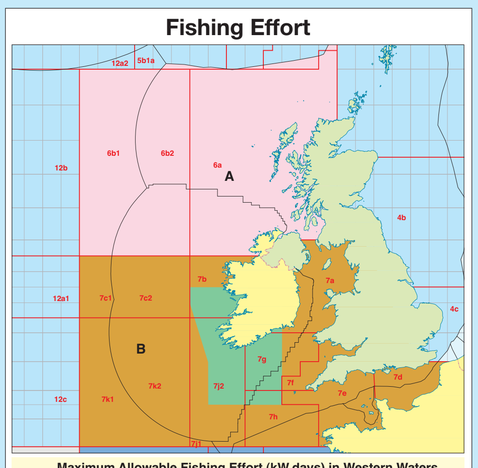
Codend mesh size	Conditions
At least 100 mm	None
At least 35 mm	Directed fishing for blue whiting
At least 16 mm	Directed fishing for mackerel (MCRS ≥ 30 cm), capelin and argentines
Static gear mesh size	**Conditions**
At least 220 mm	None

Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council,

6-12 Mile Zone Fishing Rights



Fishing Effort



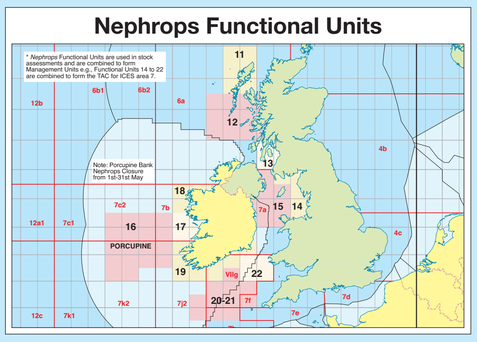
Maximum Allowable Fishing Effort (kW.days) in Western Waters

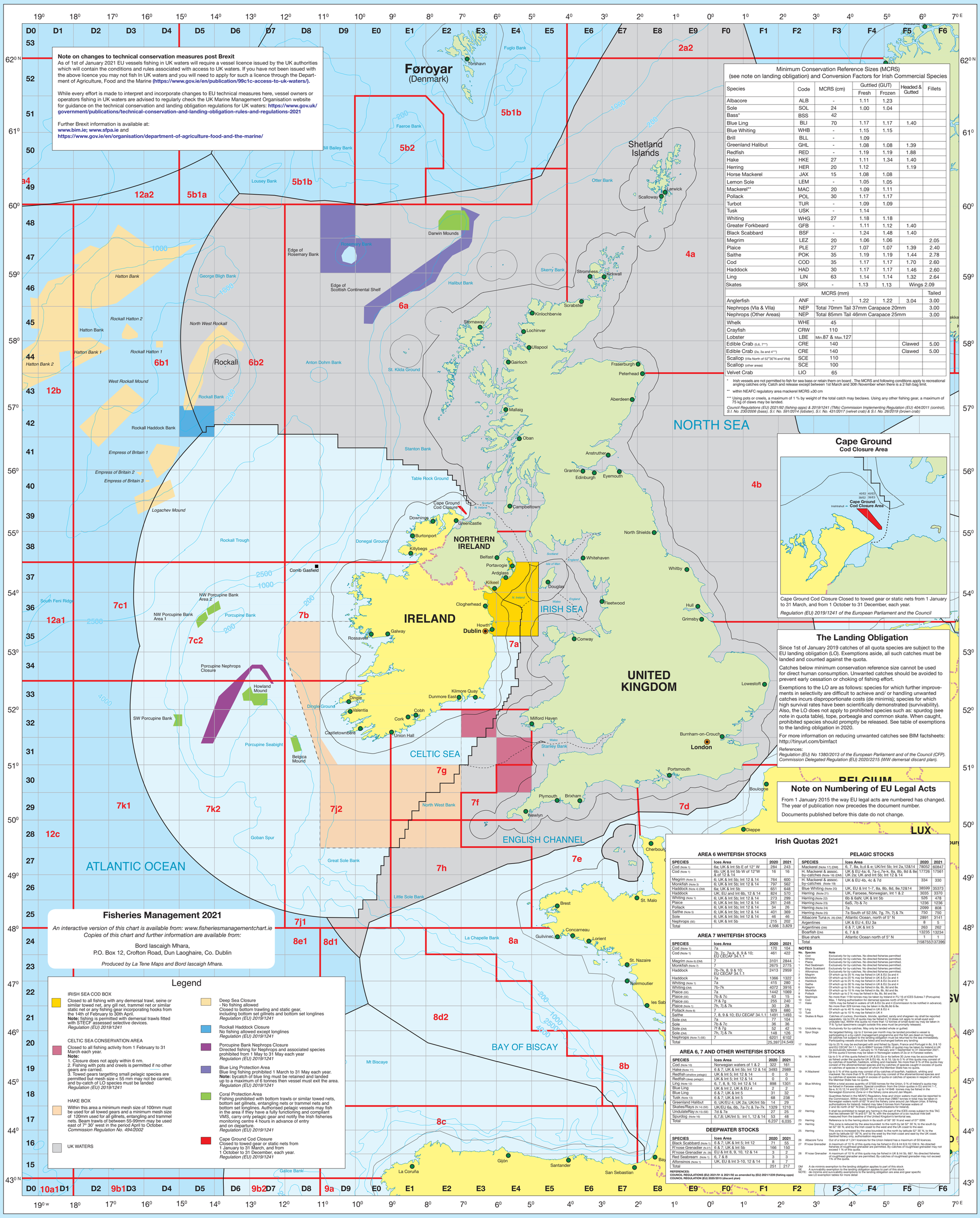
Area	Zone	Vessel Length	Demersal	Scallops	Crab
5, 6	A	≥ 15m	2,324,932	5,766	465,000
7	B	≥ 15m	7,904,120	525,012	40,960
BSA	J	≥ 10m	7,154,490	109,395	63,198

Council Regulation (EC) No 1415/2004

Regulation (EU) 2016/2094 of the European Parliament and of the Council discontinues the fishing effort regime in the long-term plan for cod stocks in the Irish Sea (established by Council Regulation (EC) No 1342/2008). The fishing effort regime had become an obstacle to the implementation of the landing obligation, as it hampers further adaptation of fishing patterns, such as the choice of area and gear

Nephrops Functional Units





Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes (MCRS)

(see note on landing obligation) and Conversion Factors for Irish Commercial Species

Species	Code	MCRS (cm)	Guttled (GUT) Fresh	Guttled (GUT) Frozen	Headed & Gutted	Fillets
Albacore	ALB	-	1.11	1.23		
Sole	SOL	24	1.00	1.04		
Bass*	BSS	42				
Blue Ling	BLI	70	1.17	1.17	1.40	
Blue Whiting	WHB	-	1.15	1.15		
Brill	BLL	-	1.09			
Greenland Halibut	GHL	-	1.08	1.08	1.39	
Redfish	RED	-	1.19	1.19	1.88	
Hake	HKE	27	1.11	1.34	1.40	
Herring	HER	20	1.12		1.19	
Horse Mackerel	JAX	15	1.08	1.08		
Lemon Sole	LEM	-	1.05	1.05		
Mackerel**	MAC	20	1.09	1.11		
Pollack	POL	30	1.17	1.17		
Turbot	TUR	-	1.09	1.09		
Tusk	USK	-	1.14			
Whiting	WHG	27	1.18	1.18		
Greater Forkbeard	GFB	-	1.11	1.12	1.40	
Black Scabbard	BSF	-	1.24	1.48	1.40	
Megrim	LEZ	20	1.06	1.06		2.05
Plaice	PLE	27	1.07	1.07	1.39	2.40
Saithe	POK	35	1.19	1.19	1.44	2.78
Cod	COD	35	1.17	1.17	1.70	2.60
Haddock	HAD	30	1.17	1.17	1.46	2.60
Ling	LIN	63	1.14	1.14	1.32	2.64
Skates	SRX	-	1.13	1.13	Wings 2.09	
		MCRS (mm)				Tailed
Anglerfish	ANF	-	1.22	1.22	3.04	3.00
Nephrops (VIa & VIIa)	NEP	Total 70mm Tail 37mm Carapace 20mm				3.00
Nephrops (Other Areas)	NEP	Total 85mm Tail 46mm Carapace 25mm				3.00
Whelk	WHE	45				
Crayfish	CRW	110				
Lobster	LBE	Min.87 & Max.127				
Edible Crab (5,6, 7***)	CRE	140			Clawed	5.00
Edible Crab (2a, 3a and 4***)	CRE	140			Clawed	5.00
Scallop (VIIa North of 52°30' N and VIId)	SCE	110				
Scallop (other areas)	SCE	100				
Velvet Crab	LIO	65				

* Irish vessels are not permitted to fish for sea bass or retain them on board . The MCRS and following conditions apply to recreational angling catches only. Catch and release except between 1st March and 30th November when there is a 2 fish bag limit.

** within NEAFC regulatory area mackerel MCRS ≥30 cm

*** Using pots or creels, a maximum of 1 % by weight of the total catch may beclaws. Using any other fishing gear, a maximum of 75 kg of claws may be landed.

Council Regulations (EU) 2021/92 (fishing opps) & 2019/1241 (TMs) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 404/2011 (control), S.I. No. 233/2006 (bass), S.I. No. 591/2014 (lobster), S.I. No. 431/2017 (velvet crab) & S.I. No. 26/2019 (brown crab)

The Landing Obligation

Since 1st of January 2019 catches of all quota species are subject to the EU landing obligation (LO). Exemptions aside, all such catches must be landed and counted against the quota.

Catches below minimum conservation reference size cannot be used for direct human consumption. Unwanted catches should be avoided to prevent early cessation or choking of fishing effort.

Exemptions to the LO are as follows: species for which further improvements in selectivity are difficult to achieve and/ or handling unwanted catches incurs disproportionate costs (de minimis); species for which high survival rates have been scientifically demonstrated (survivability). Also, the LO does not apply to prohibited species such as: spurdog (see note in quota table), tope, porbeagle and common skate. When caught, prohibited species should promptly be released. See table of exemptions to the landing obligation in 2020.

For more information on reducing unwanted catches see BIM factsheets: http://tinyurl.com/bimfact

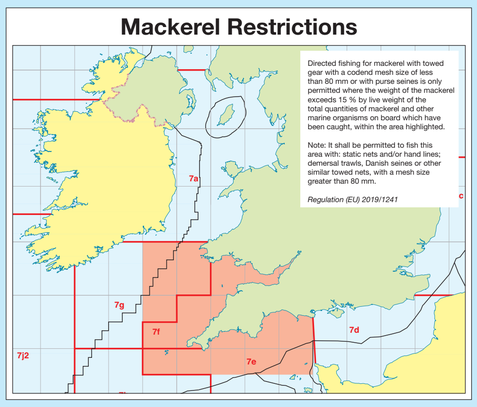
References:
Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (CFP).
Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/2215 (WW demersal discard plan).

Note on Numbering of EU Legal Acts

From 1 January 2015 the way EU legal acts are numbered has changed. The year of publication now precedes the document number.

Documents published before this date do not change.

Mackerel Restrictions



Marking and identification of passive gear and beam trawls in all EU waters

Nets	Label* attached along the upper first row of meshes
Pots and traps	Label* attached to the ground rope
Lines	Label* attached at the point of contact with the mooring buoy
Beam trawls	Vessels registration number marked on the beam

Label dimensions 65mm x 75mm. Marked with vessels registration number. Attached every 1 nm. Must be durable.

Additional marking and identification of passive gear outside 12 nm

Western buoy	Float, mast, 2 flags, 2 luminous bands, 2 flashing lights and label as above
Eastern buoy	Float, mast, 1 flag, 1 luminous band, 1 flashing light and label as above
Intermediate buoy	Rigged as eastern buoy but with white flag (Int. buoy required only if gear exceeds 5nm)

Construction of marker buoys

Buoy/ float	May not be red or green. Marked with vessel's registration number.
Mast height	1m in height from top of float to first flag
Flag(s)	Buoys at either end of same gear must carry same colour flags.
	If 2 flags present must be same size and must be fixed 20 cm apart.
Lights(s)	Yellow, one flash every 5 seconds and visible from 2 nautical miles
Buoy rope	Chord linking buoy to gear weighed down or of submersible material
Luminous band(s)	May not be red or green, at least 6 centimetres broad

Reference: Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 404/2011

Gears and Fishing Operations Codes

Type of gear	Code
Bottom otter trawl	OTB
Nephrops trawls	TBN
Beam trawl	TBB
Otter twin trawls	OTT
Bottom pair trawl	PTB
Mid-water otter trawl	OTM
Mid-water pair trawl	PTM
Scottish seine	SSC
Scottish pair seine	SPR
Dredge	DRB
Gillnets (not specified)	GN
Gillnets anchored (set)	GNS
Gillnets (drift)	GND
Gillnets (circling)	GNC
Combined gillnets-trammel nets	GTN
Trammel net	GTR
Pots	FPO
Traps (not specified)	FIX
Handlines and pole lines (hand operated	LHP
Handlines and pole lines (mechanised))	LHM
Set longlines	LLS
Drifting longlines	LLD
Trolling lines	LTL
Hooks and lines (not specified)	LX
Mechanised dredges	HMD

Reference: Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 404/2011

Exemptions to the landing obligation in 2021

Species	Exemption type	Area	Gear	Maximum de minimis exemption (% of total annual catch)
Albacore tuna	De minimis	7	Midwater pair trawls	5
Whiting	De minimis	7b -7k	Bottom trawls and seines ≥ 80 mm, Pelagic and beam trawls 80-119 mm	5
Sole	De minimis	7a, 7d -7h	Beam trawl 80-119 mm with Flemish Panel	3
Sole	De minimis	7d,e,f & g	Trammel nets and gillnets	3
Haddock	De minimis	7b,c & 7e-k	Bottom trawls and seines ≥ 100 mm, catches comprising ≤30% Nephrops	5
Haddock	De minimis	7b,c & 7e-k	Vessels using ≥ 80 mm, with catches comprising rhore than 30% Nephrops	5
Haddock	De minimis	7b,c & 7e-k	Beam trawls ≥ 80 mm with Flemish Panel	5
Haddock [1]	De minimis	6a	Nephrops bottom trawls using <119mm with HSG	3
Megrim [2]	De minimis	7	Beam Trawls 80-119mm & Bottom trawls	4
Horse mackerel	De minimis	6 & 7b-k	Bottom trawls, seines & beam trawls	3
Mackerel	De minimis	6 & 7b-k	Bottom trawls, seines & beam trawls	3
Boarfish	De minimis	7b,7c,7f-7k	Bottom trawls	0.5
Argentine	De minimis	EU 5b & 6	Bottom trawls ≥ 100 mm	0.6
Species	**Exemption Type**	**Area**	**Gear**	**Discard Release Notes**
Nephrops	Survivability	6 & 7	Pots, creels or traps	immediately & where caught
Nephrops	Survivability	7	Bottom trawls 70-99mm with HSG* or ≥100mm	immediately & where caught
Nephrops	Survivability	6a (<12nm)	Bottom trawls 80-110 mm	immediately & where caught
Skates & rays	Survivability	6 & 7	All gears	Released immediately
Plaice	Survivability	7d -7g	Trammel nets and otter trawls	Released immediately
Plaice	Survivability	7d -7g	Beam Trawls with flip up rope or benthic release panel (vessels > 221kW)	Released immediately
Plaice	Survivability	7a-7g	BT2 (vessels ≤221 kW or ≤24 m) inside 12 nm, tows ≤ 1:30 hour	Released immediately
All Species	Survivability	EU 5b; 6 & 7	Pots, creels and traps	Released immediately

[1] Applies ony to haddock <MCRS (30cm), [2] Applies ony to megrim <MCRS (20cm)
* See list of highly specific gears for Nephrops. ** Bottom trawls:70 to 99mm in 7f,7g, 7h North of 49.5°N & 7j East of 11°W - catches must comprise 55% whiting or anglerfish, hake & megrim combined; ≥100mm in the rest of 7

Reference: Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/2015

Baseline mesh sizes for static nets and driftnets in NW Waters (ICES 5b (EU), 6 & 7)

Directed Fishery	Baseline mesh size	Area	Condition
All	≥120 mm	Whole area	None
All	≥120 mm	Hake box	None
Monkfish	≥220 mm	Whole area	None
Hake or pollack	≥110 mm	7d & 7e	None
Flatfish, whiting or dab	≥100 mm	Whole area (not incl. 7d)	≤20 % cod, haddock & saithe
Flatfish, whiting or dab	≥90 mm	7d	≤20 % cod, haddock & saithe
Small pelagic species	≥50 mm	Whole area	≤20 % cod, haddock & saithe, total deployed length of driftnets no more than 2.5 km

Reference: Commission regulation (EC) No 494/2002 (hake); Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of EU Parliament & Council (Technical Measures);

Restrictions on the use of static nets at depth between 200 and 600 m in ICES divisions 5b, 6a, 6b, 7b, 7c, 7h, 7j and 7k*

Directed Fishery	Mesh size	Gear type	Depth range	Max. deployed length per vessel	Dimensions	Maximum Soak Time
Hake	≥ 100 mm	Bottom set gillnet	200–600 m	25 km	≤ 100 meshes deep	24 hrs
Monkfish	≥ 220 mm	Entangling net	200–600 m	100 km	≤ 15 meshes deep	72 hrs

* In the rest of ICES division 7 it is prohibited to deploy any bottom set gillnet, entangling net or trammel net where the charted depth exceeds 200 m

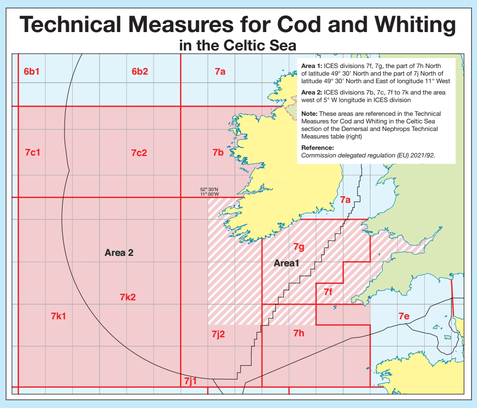
Reference: Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of EU Parliament & Council (Technical Measures);

Fisheries in which the use of acoustic deterrent devices (pingers) is mandatory:

Vessel length	Area	Gear
≥12 m LOA	7d-7j	Bottom-set gillnet and entangling nets

Reference: Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of EU Parliament & Council (Technical Measures);

Technical Measures for Cod and Whiting in the Celtic Sea



Demersal Technical Conservation Measures

Area	Gear	Mesh size	Selective gear	Catches comprising	Max. % of cod, haddock & saithe	Max. % of hake (ICES 5,6 & 7b-k)
5, 6 & 7a	Trawls, seines or dredges	≥120 mm codend	-	-	-	-
7b-7k (note 1)	Trawls, seines or dredges	≥100 mm codend	-	-	-	-
7b-7k (note 1)	Bottom trawl	≥80 mm codend	120 mm SMP	Hake, megrim & monk	20	20
7b-7k (note 1)	Otter trawl	≥80 mm codend	80 mm SMP	Sole & non-quota species	20	20
7a,7b, 7d-7j (note 1)	Beam trawl	≥80 mm codend	180 mm panel (note2)	Sole	20	5
7b-7c, 7f-7k (note 1)	Bottom trawl	≥80 mm codend	120 mm SMP	Whiting, mackerel & NQS	20	20
7d and 7e (note 1)	Bottom trawl	≥80 mm codend	-	Whiting, mackerel & NQS	20	20
5, 6 & 7 (note 1)	All gears	≥40 mm codend	-	Squid	20	-

Technical measures for cod and whiting in the Celtic Sea.

In place until 31/12/21 and take precedence over the measures above but only in the areas below

Area	Gear	Mesh size	Selective gear	Catches comprising	Max. % of cod, haddock & saithe	Max. % of hake (ICES 5,6 & 7b-k)
7f, 7g, & parts of: 7h-j (note 3)	Bottom trawls/seines	100mm codend	160 mm SMP	See Note 4	-	-
7f, 7g, & parts of: 7h-j (note 3)	Bottom trawls/seines	100mm T90 codend	-	See Note 4	-	-
7f, 7g, & parts of: 7h-j (note 3)	Bottom trawls/seines	110mm codend	120 mm SMP	See Note 4	-	-
7f, 7g, & parts of: 7h-j (note 3)	Bottom trawls/seines	120mm codend	-	See Note 4	-	-
7f, 7g, & parts of: 7h-j (note 3)	Bottom trawls/seines	100mm codend	100 mm SMP	>55 % whiting or hake, monk & megrim combined	-	-
7f, 7g, & parts of: 7h-j (note 3)	Bottom trawls/seines	100mm T90 codend	-	>55 % whiting or hake, monk & megrim combined	-	-
7b, 7c, 7e west of 5°W & 7f–7k	Bottom trawls/seines	100mm codend	-	<1.5 % cod (subject to STECF assessment)	-	-

References: Commission regulation (EC) No 494/2002 (hake); Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of EU Parliament & Council (TCM); Commission delegated regulation (EU) 2020/2215 (WW demersal discard plan); Council Regulation (EU) 2021/92 (TAC)

Pelagic Technical Conservation Measures

ICES sub-area	Mesh size	Catches comprising	Max. % of cod, haddock and saithe
5,6 and 7	≥16 mm	Small pelagic species (note 1)	20
5,6 and 8	< 16 mm	Sandeel	20

References: Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council

Note 1:
Small pelagic species means species such as mackerel, herring, horse mackerel, anchovy, sardine, blue whiting, argentines, sprat, and boarfish.

Guidance on the construction of codends*

Area	ICES 5 & 6	ICES 7b–7k & 8a,b,d,e
Maximum twine Thickness	Single 8 mm or double 6 mm	Single 6 mm or double 4 mm
Maximum codend circumference 90-119 mm mesh size	100 open meshes round	
Maximum codend circumference 70-89 mm mesh size	120 open meshes round	

*codend can be made up of one or more panels and includes the lengthening/ extension piece in front of the codend sensu stricto.

References:
Commission Regulation (EC) No 494/2002; Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council

Notes to Demersal Technical Conservation Measures

Note 1: Technical measures for cod and whiting in the Celtic Sea are in place until 31/12/21 and supercede these mesh size/ selective gear combinations within parts of 7e-7k (see table for more detail).
Note 2: Panel length calculated by: beam length (m)/ 12 x 5400/ min. mesh size (mm) in panel.
Note 3: 7f, 7g, 7h North of 49.5°N latitude and 7j North of 49.5°N latitude & East of 11°W longitude
Note 4: As an additional measure vessels whose catches consist of at least 20 % of haddock shall use a fishing gear constructed with a minimum of one metre spacing between the fishing line and ground gear. Member States may exempt vessels from this provision provided they catch less than 1.5 % cod and are subject to 20 % observer coverage.

Nephrops Technical Conservation Measures

Area	Mesh size	Selective gear	Min.% of Nephrops	Max. % cod, haddock & saithe	Max. % of hake
5, 6 & 7 (except in areas below)	≥80 mm (note 1)	120 mm SMP or sorting grid (note 2)	-	20	20 (note 3)
5b East of 12°W & 6a	< 100 mm	300 mm SMP (note 4)	-	20	20
5b East of 12°W & 6a	100-119 mm	160 mm SMP	30	20	-
7a (note 2)	70-99 mm (note 1)	300 mm SMP (note 4)	5	20	-
7a (note 2)	70-99 mm (note 1)	SELTRA	5	20	-
7a (note 2)	70-99 mm (note 1)	Sorting grid	5	20	-
7a (note 2)	70-99 mm (note 1)	CEFAS net grid	5	20	-
7a (note 2)	70-99 mm (note 1)	Flip-flap trawl	5	20	-
Celtic Sea protection zone (note 2, 5)	≥80 mm	300 mm SMP	5	20	20
Celtic Sea protection zone (note 2, 5)	≥80mm	SELTRA	5	20	20
Celtic Sea protection zone (note 2, 5)	≥80mm	Sorting grid	5	20	20
Celtic Sea protection zone (note 2, 5)	100mm	100 mm SMP	5	-	-
Celtic Sea protection zone (note 2, 5)	90 mm T90 (upper); ≥80 mm (lower)	Dual codend	5	20	20
Hake box	100 mm	100 mm SMP (note 6)	-	-	-

References: Commission regulation (EC) No 494/2002 (hake); Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of EU Parliament & Council (Technical Measures);
Commission delegated regulation (EU) 2020/2015 (Western Waters discard plan).

Note 1: 70 mm for single rig vessels in 7a only.
Note 2: In order to comply with the Nephrops survivability exemptions for ICES subarea 7 highly selective gears must be used: See selective measures for 7a and Celtic Sea Protection Zone (this table)
Note 3: Applies to mesh sizes < 100 mm in 5,6,7b,c & 7g-k only
Note 4: 200 mm SMP for vessels < 12m or (only in 5b) ≤200 kW.
Note 5: 7f, 7g, 7h North of 49.5°N & the part of 7j North of 49.5°N & East of 11°W.
Note 6: Hake Box protection zone 100 mm SMP applies

This chart and the maps, boundaries, tables, and figures therein are for guidance purposes only and do not purport to be a legal interpretation. Please refer to the relevant national legislation and EU Regulations for full details.

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