



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



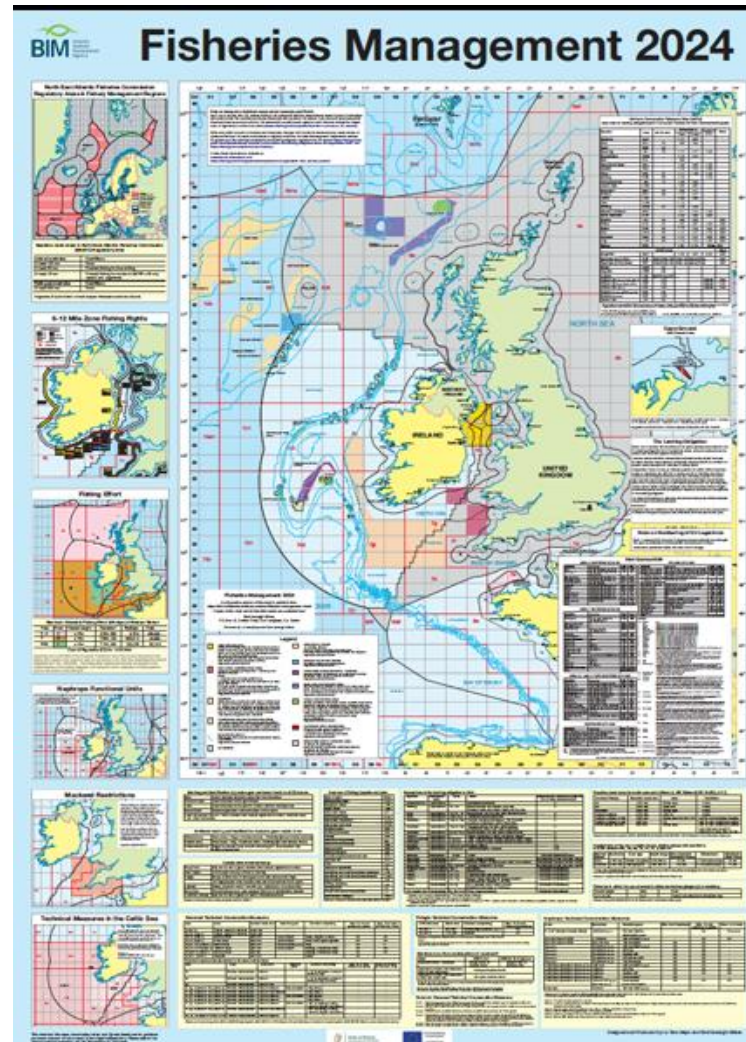
Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach

Co-Funded by the
European Union

- The image shows the BIM Seafood Development Agency logo in the top left corner, featuring the letters 'BIM' in a large, bold, white font, with 'Seafood Development Agency' in a smaller, white font to its right. The background is a solid dark blue. Centered on the slide is the title 'Fisheries Conservation Solutions to Address Key Environmental Issues' in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below the title, the date 'February 2024' is written in a smaller, white font. At the bottom of the slide, there are two logos: on the left, the Irish Government logo featuring a harp and the text 'Riadas na Míreann Government of Ireland'; on the right, the European Union flag (a blue rectangle with twelve yellow stars in a circle) and the text 'Amas chomhcheistie ag an Aontas Eorpach' and 'Co-Funded by the European Union'.

Landing Obligation (LO) – legislative drivers

- Article 15 CFP the LO
- Technical Measures Reg
(EU) 2019/1241 –updated Jan
2025
- Discard plan for Western waters
(EU) 2023/2623 – Amended Jan
2024



Summary of BIM trials pre-2017

Selective measure	Whiting < 27 cm (MCRS)	Whiting < 20 cm	Nephrops ≥ 25 mm
300 mm SMP	~ -52	~ 0	~ + 14
SELTRA 300	~ -53	~ 0	~ + 11
Sorting grid 35 mm (2015)	~ -77	~ -77	~ -4
Sorting grid 35 mm (2010 to 2014)*	~ -60	~ -50	
90 mm codend**	~ -58	~ -58	~ -21
90 V 80 mm codend**	~ -62	~ -62	~ -10

* Based on observer coverage of long-term use by Industry

** Codend only (not extension piece)

Summary of BIM trials post-2017

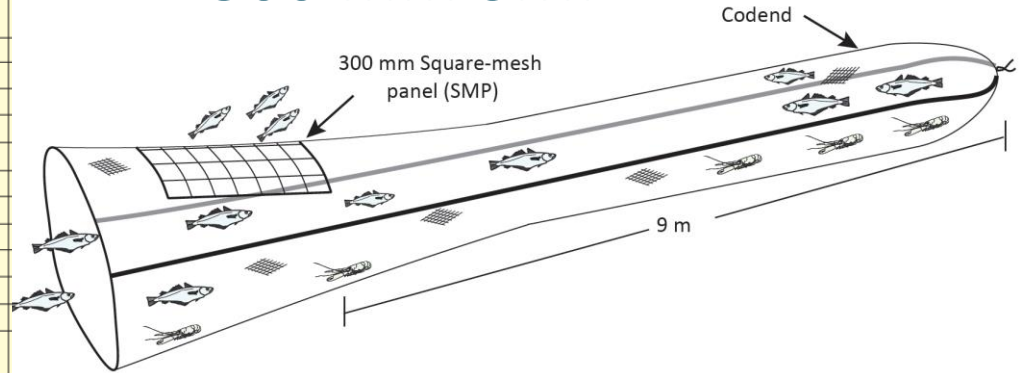
Trial	Whiting < 20 cm	Whiting < 27 cm	Nephrops ≥ 25 mm
90 mm codend	-60	-47	-31
Reduced circumference 80 mm codend (80 meshes round)	-15	-6	-12
90 mm codend sensu stricto	-68	-45	-34
90 mm SELTRA 300	-78	-75	-19

Nephrops

Nephrops Technical Conservation Measures

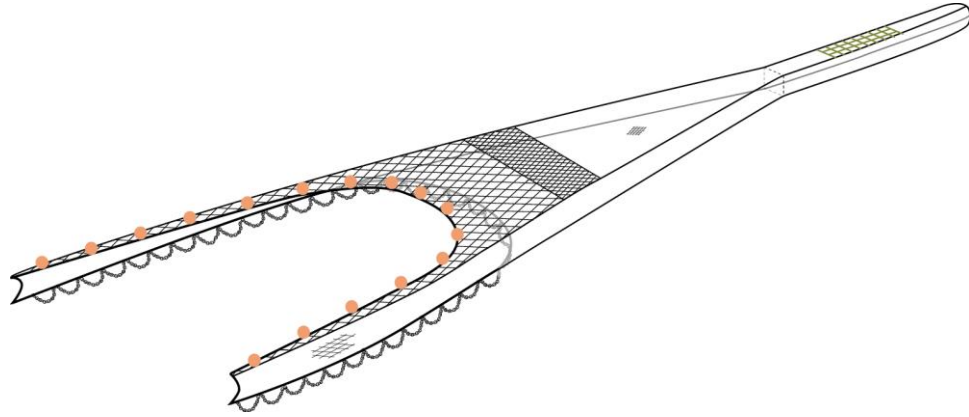
Area	Mesh size	Selective gear
5, 6 & 7 (except in areas below)	≥80 mm (note 1)	120 mm SMP or sorting grid (note 2)
5b & 6a East of 12°W	< 100 mm	300 mm SMP (note 4)
5b & 6a East of 12°W	100-119 mm	160 mm SMP
7a (note 2)	70-99 mm (note 1)	300 mm SMP (note 4)
7a (note 2)	70-99 mm (note 1)	SELTRA
7a (note 2)	70-99 mm (note 1)	Sorting grid
7a (note 2)	70-99 mm (note 1)	CEFAS net grid
7a (note 2)	70-99 mm (note 1)	Flip-flap trawl
Celtic Sea protection zone (note 2, 5)	≥80 mm	300 mm SMP (note 4)
Celtic Sea protection zone (note 2, 5)	≥80mm	SELTRA
Celtic Sea protection zone (note 2, 5)	≥80mm	Sorting grid
Celtic Sea protection zone (note 2, 5)	100mm	100 mm SMP
Celtic Sea protection zone (note 2, 5)	90 mm T90 (upper); ≥80 mm (lower)	Dual codend (until 31/12/2022)
Hake box	100 mm	100 mm SMP (note 6)

300 mm SMP



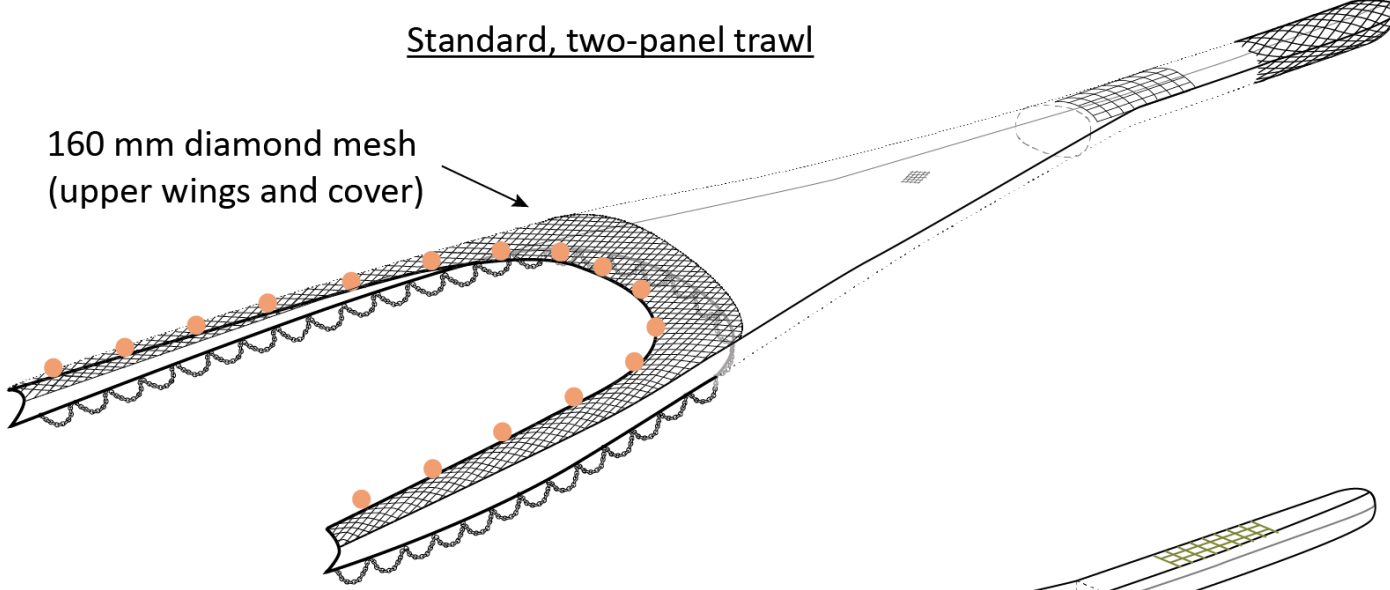
Haddock -70%
Whiting -52%
Nephrops +14%

Four-panel 'Box' trawl



Standard, two-panel trawl

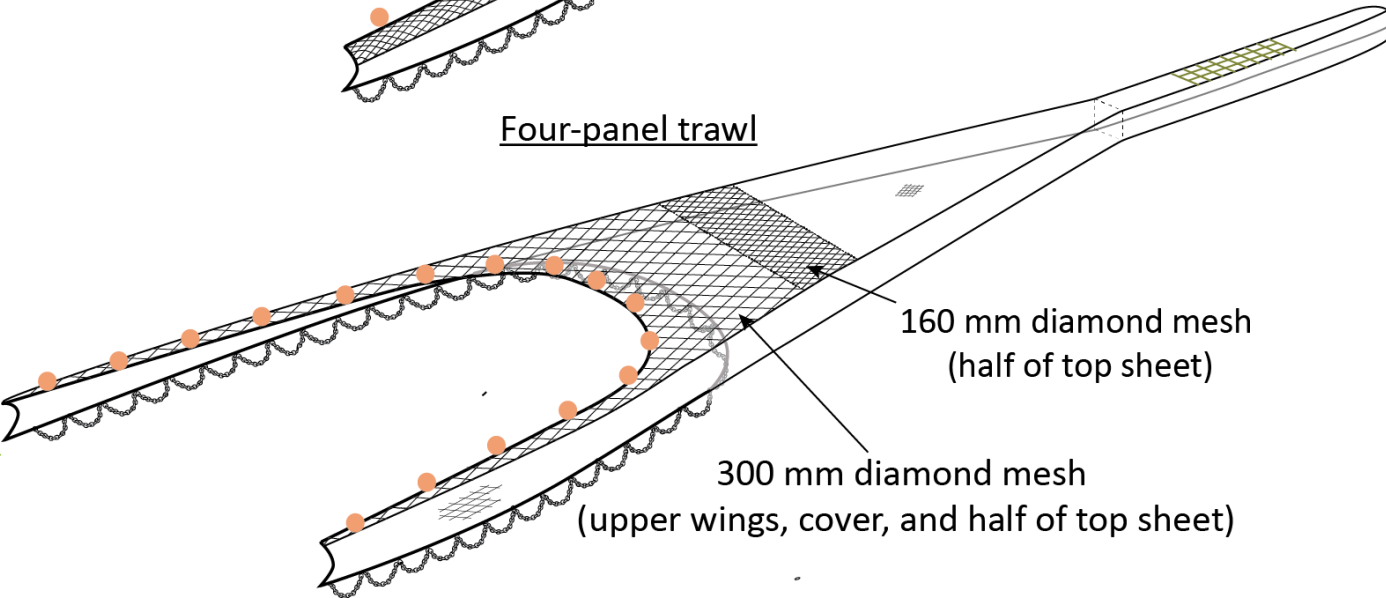
160 mm diamond mesh
(upper wings and cover)



Four-panel trawl

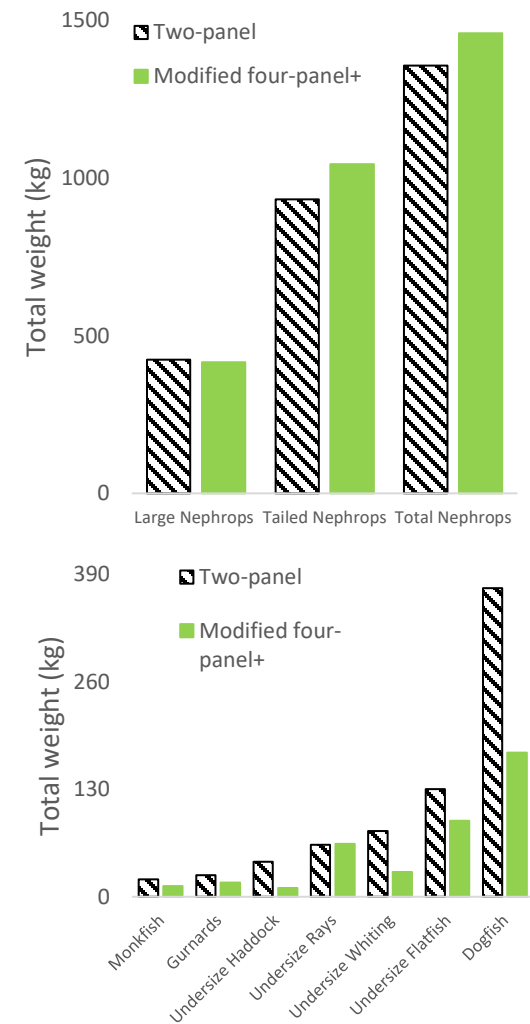
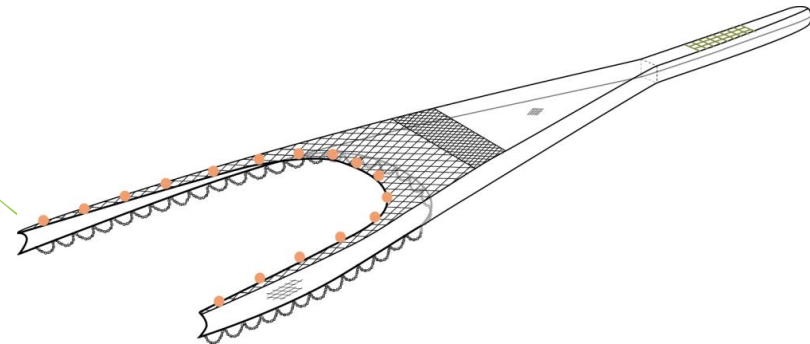
160 mm diamond mesh
(half of top sheet)

300 mm diamond mesh
(upper wings, cover, and half of top sheet)



Box trawl

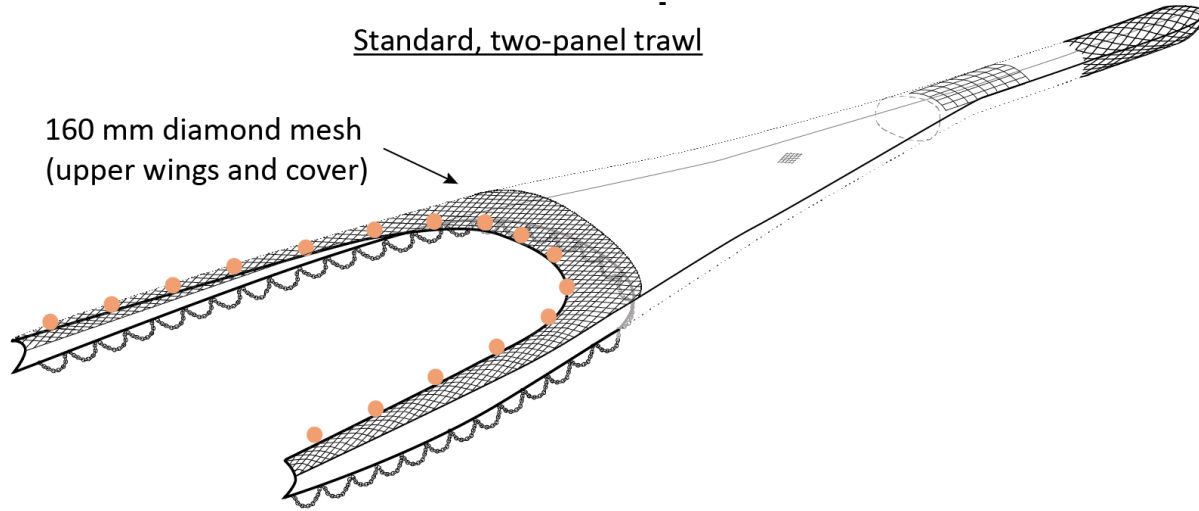
- Slight increase in *Nephrops* catches in the four-panel 'box' trawl compared with the traditional two-panel trawl
- Large mesh showed potential enhanced escapement of fish
- Potential to develop further



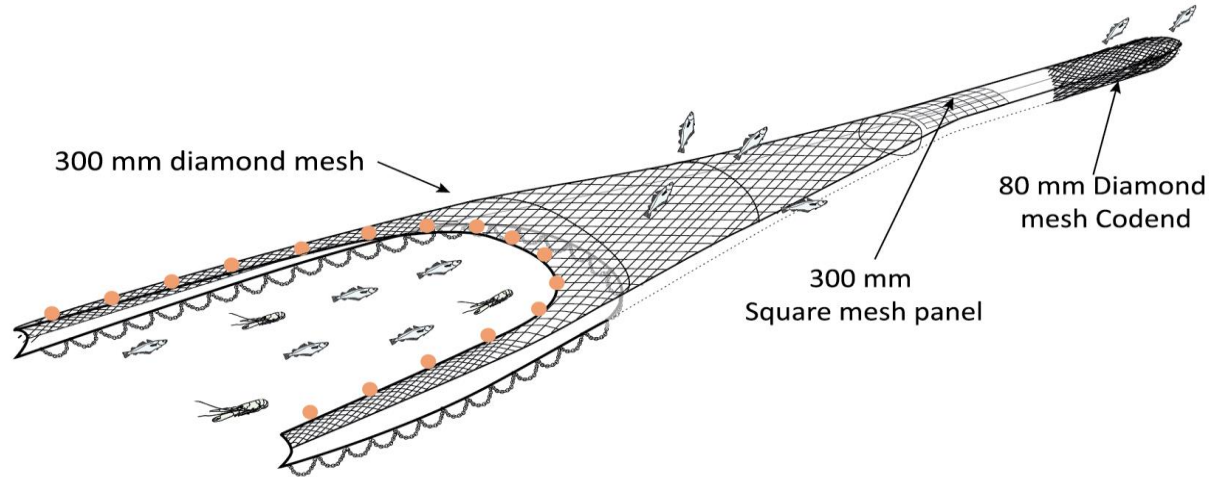
Enlarged mesh in Nephrops trawls

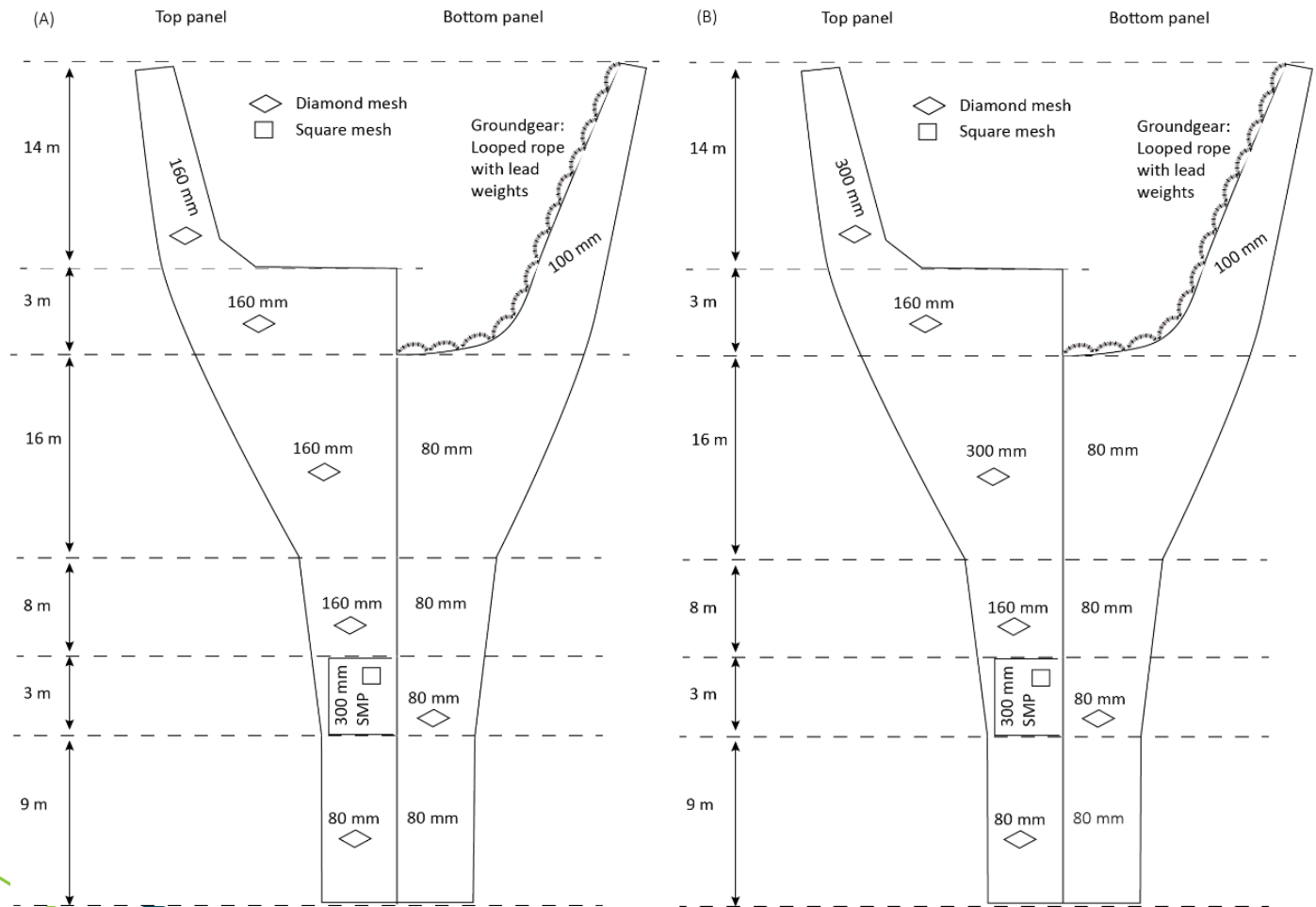
Standard, two-panel trawl

160 mm diamond mesh
(upper wings and cover)



300 mm diamond mesh





Enlarged mesh in Nephrops top sheets

- Significant 39% reduction in undersize whiting and good survival of escapees
- No loss in Nephrops catches
- Around a 10% reduction in fuel

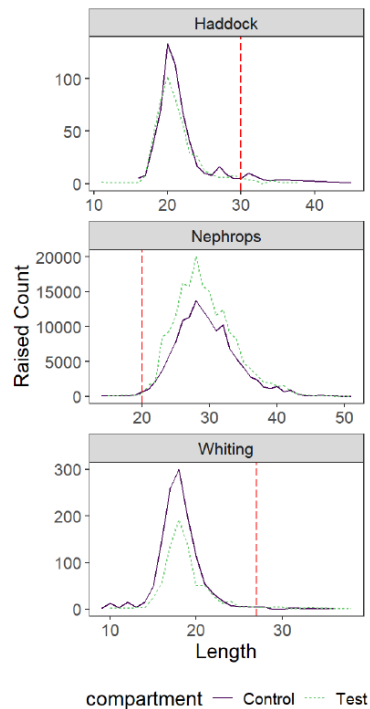


Figure 3. Length frequencies for Haddock, Nephrops, and Whiting caught in the control and test (160 and 300mm top sheet) trawls. Vertical dashed lines represent the respective species MCRS

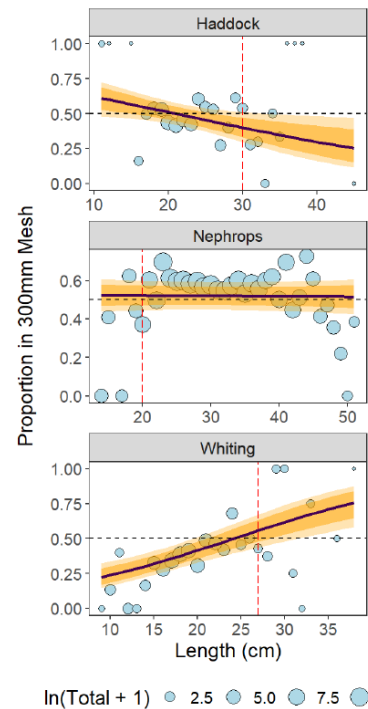


Figure 4. Proportions retained with GAM overlay for Haddock, Nephrops, and Whiting caught in the 300 mm top sheet trawls. Vertical dashed lines represent the respective species MCRS.

Future work

- Further work on large mesh in the upper sections of trawls
 - 80 Vs 160 mm mesh top sheets
- Smaller trawl doors

Links



- <https://bim.ie/publications/fisheries/>
- <https://bim.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Fisheries-Conservation-Solutions-to-Address-Key-Environmental-Issues.pdf>



- <https://bim.ie/fisheries/advisory-services/fisheries-management-chart/>

