



Inclined Netting Panel and Double Codends to Separate Fish from *Nephrops*

Target Species:

Nephrops

Fishing Method:

Twin Rig Prawn Trawl

Area:

North Sea ICES IV a/b

Vessel:

Amity II PD 177

Trial Objective:

Prove the possible separation of *Nephrops* and Fish



Aim of the Trial:

In the context of a mixed fishery, to verify the possibility of separation of *Nephrops* and Fish using an inclined separator panel to guide the fish to the upper codend and *Nephrops* to the lower codend.

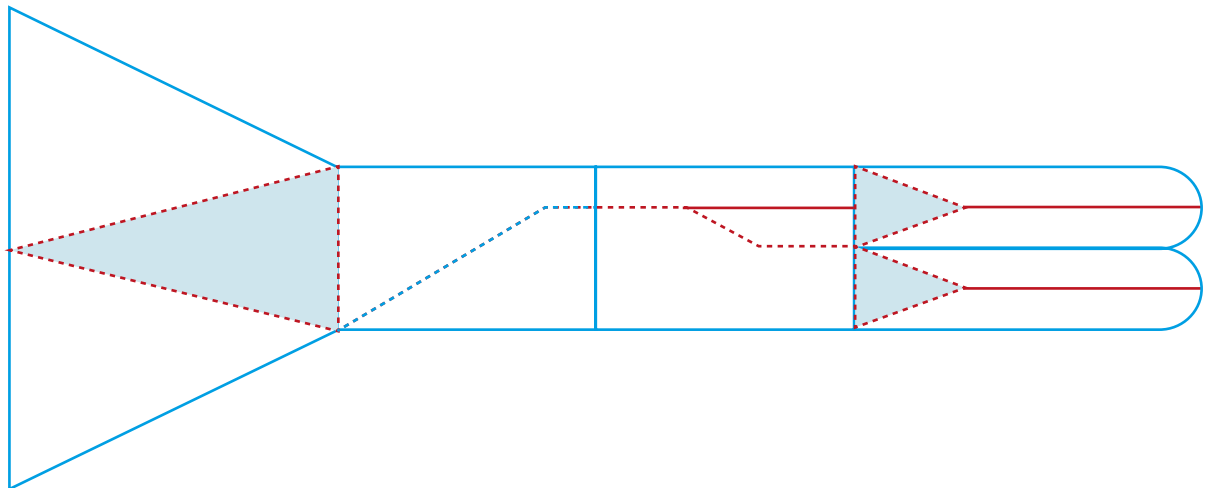
Gear Modifications:

A four panel section was fitted into the extension of one of the nets in a twin rig prawn trawl.

This four panel section had an inclined separator panel of square mesh netting.

To test for effective separation three different mesh sizes were used for the panel: 200mm k/k, 300mm k/k, and 400mm k/k.

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Results

A large proportion of the fish component of the catch could be separated from the target species, *Nephrops*.

Nearly all haddock and whiting went over the panel regardless of the mesh size and into the upper codend.

Larger quantities of cod, anglerfish, plaice and other flatfish went through the inclined panel as the mesh size increased and into the lower codend.

The quality of the fish and *Nephrops* in the separated codends showed substantial improvements.

Those encouraging results allowed the vessel to move to trials under GITAG Phase II to focus on the selectivity of the upper codend.

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