



Four Panel Codend

Target Species:

Whitefish

Fishing Method:

Pair Trawl

Area:

North Sea

Vessel:

MV Ocean Harvest & Harvester

Trial Objective:

Release of undersized catch



In partnership with:

Aim of the Trial:

To look at options to release undersized catch (mainly haddock and whiting) whilst retaining the main market species (haddock).

Trial Objective:

To focus on developing a four-panel codend with dynema quick link to determine the optimum arrangement for release of undersized catch (mainly haddock and whiting) whilst retaining the main market species (haddock).

Four-Panel Codend

Gear Modifications:

Comparisons were between the standard net (125 or 127mm codend) and 110mm four-panel codend with dynema quick link set at either 70cm or 130cm.

Results

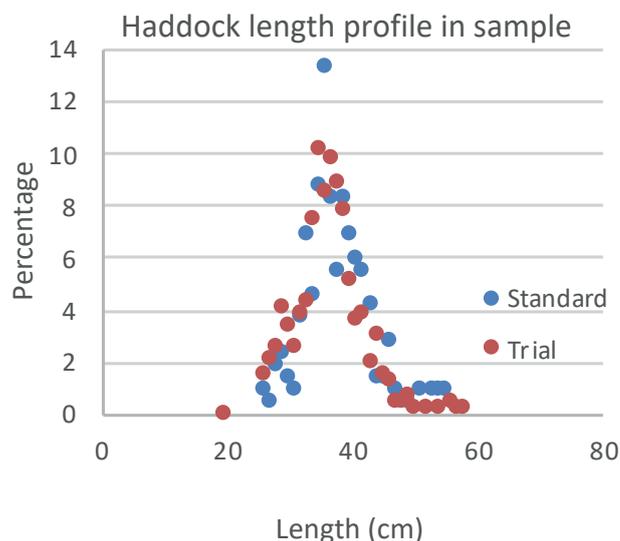
Comparisons were made of all retained marketable haddock categories with either the standard 127mm codend or 110mm four-panel codend.

Results show that, on average, the four-panel codend retained a higher quantity of marketable haddock, however the sample size was very small so the conclusion may require some further analysis.

The length distribution of the haddock from each of the catch samples were graphed against each other to determine if the nets were catching a different size range of fish. The result is shown as percentage of haddock at each length from the total quantity of haddock sampled. The conclusion is that there is no substantial difference in the size range of fish being caught by each gear. (Figure 1)

There is not a significant difference in the percentage of haddock discarded for each gear, but overall the haddock discard level is low (<5%) for all the four-panel codends. The configuration with quick link shows the least haddock discarded (1.08%).

It should be noted that the available figures represent the proportion of haddock discarded vs. haddock caught. They are not a measure of the haddock discard rate compared to the total of all species.



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