



Twin rig trial of an internal cone concept with 200 mm square mesh panels for the Shetland mixed demersal fishery

TARGET SPECIES >

Whitefish

FISHING METHOD >

Twin Rig

AREA >

North Sea

VESSEL >

MV Valhalla LK687



AIM OF TRIAL >

To test an adapted net on a twin rig vessel.

In partnership with:



marinescotland

SAFPO

Scottish Association of Fish Producers' Organisations

Supported by:



EUROPEAN UNION
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AND FISHERIES FUND



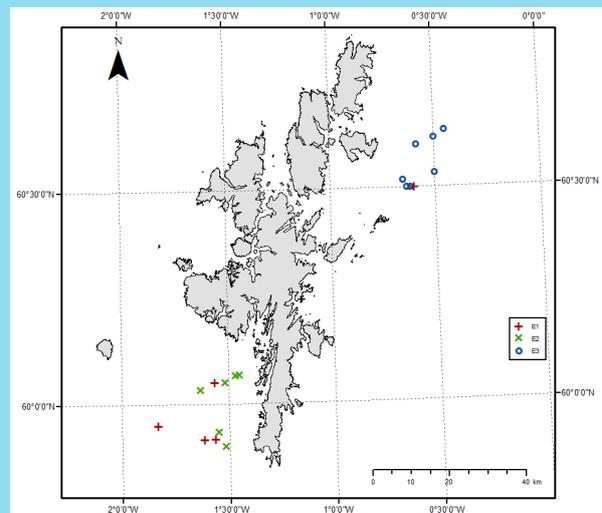
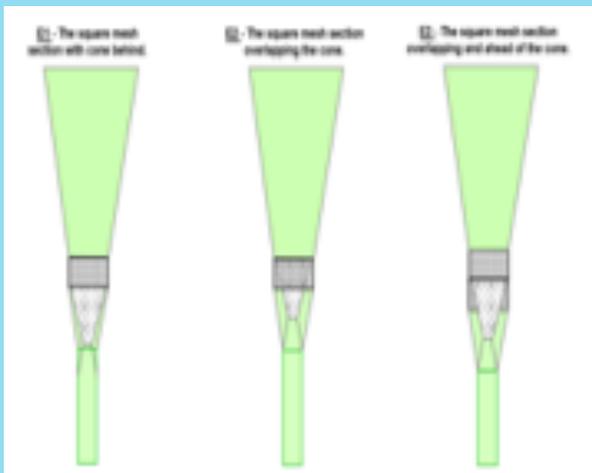
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TRIAL OBJECTIVE >

The trial was designed to minimise unwanted catch in relation to availability of necessary quota and to maximise the catch of large sized fish to meet market requirements.

GEAR MODIFICATION >

During the trial two nets were used, a standard “control” and a modified “test” net which were fished together using a twin-rig system. Both nets were new for this trial and therefore in a comparable condition. Both nets were fitted with identical 120 mm mesh cod-ends. The test net was modified to include an internal cone and a square mesh (200 mm) section fitted in three different experimental configurations. In the first experimental configuration (E1), the square mesh panel was fitted ahead of the leading edge of the internal cone; in the second experimental configuration (E2), the square mesh panel was fitted aft of the leading edge of the internal cone; and in the third experimental configuration (E3), the square mesh panel was fitted both ahead and aft of the leading edge of the cone. The internal cone was made using 80 mm diamond mesh in black twine which was hung onto the square mesh section at 10 (80 mm) meshes to one (200 mm) square mesh.



RESULTS >

A total catch of 290.4 baskets was recorded in valid hauls during this trial. In all experimental configurations the proportion of total catches from the control net was substantially higher than in the test nets. The largest contribution to control catches was from cod in E1 and E2, while in E3 cod catches were exceeded by whiting and lesser spotted dogfish. Due to variation in control catches for E1, E2, and E3, the results from each test net configuration cannot be compared directly to each other and are thus compared separately to the corresponding control catches. A total of 13137 individual fish were measured from valid hauls during the trial from the species of the most commercial significance. The most abundant measured species were cod, haddock and whiting.