



Marine  
Management  
Organisation

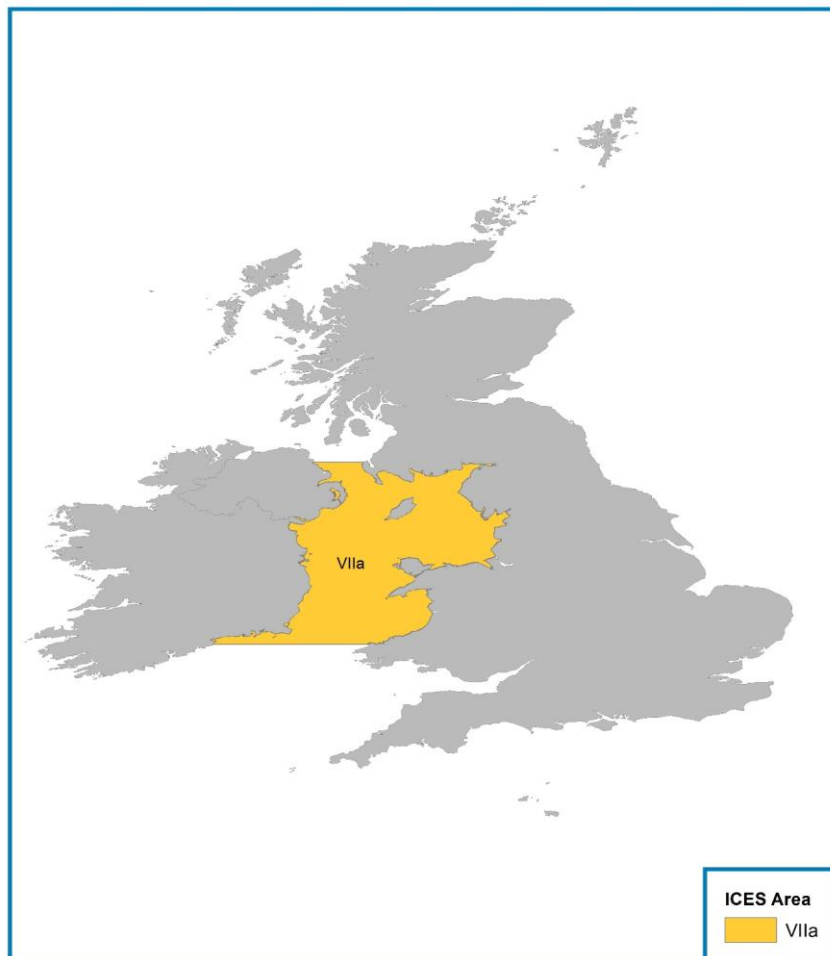


Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**  
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# Landing Obligation Guidance 2019

**Applicable to Demersal Towed Gears  
Fishing in the Irish Sea  
(Excluding Nephrops Vessels and Beam Trawlers)**



Contains Collins Bartholomew and ICES data. © Collins Bartholomew copyright and database right 2017.  
ICES Statistical Areas dataset 2010. ICES, Copenhagen



## Introduction

This document needs to be read in conjunction with the Landing Obligation overview guidance document which explains the general rules. This document explains rules specific to the Irish Sea ICES Area VIIa.

You must ensure that the following rules are complied with:

1. All catches of quota species must be kept on board, landed and counted against quota, except where the exemptions listed below apply.
2. All catches and discards must be recorded in your logbook.
3. Any fish returned to the sea under the exemptions described below must be kept in good condition in order to maximise their survival chances. This includes keeping them wet, handling them carefully and releasing them promptly.

## Survival Exemptions

These exemptions allow you to discard fish under certain conditions based on the likelihood of a fish being able to survive being caught and returned to the sea.

You are permitted to discard certain species of fish provided you comply with the conditions specified in the table below:

<b>Fish Species you can Discard</b>	<b>Fishing Gear</b>	<b>ICES Area</b>	<b>Conditions</b>
Skates and Rays	All Gears	VIIa	No Conditions
Nephrops (NEP)	Demersal Trawls	VIIa	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 100 mm



## Selective Gear Requirements

Selective gear requirements apply from 1st January 2019 for vessels fishing in the Irish Sea ICES Area VIIa.

You must use one of the gear options shown in the table below. For each gear option, technical information on what is required and how to fit the gear correctly may be viewed by clicking on the link of the appropriate gear type.

Target Species / Species Caught	Fishing Gear Options
If your catch contains <b>more</b> than 10 % of haddock, cod, skates and rays (combined).	<b>You must use one of the gear options listed below:</b>  1) Minimum cod-end mesh size of 120 mm.  2) Eliminator Trawl* with 600 mm large mesh panels and 100 mm cod-end mesh size.
If your catch contains <b>less</b> than 10 % of haddock, cod, skates and rays (combined).	100 mm cod-end mesh size and 100 mm square mesh panel**

\* An Eliminator Trawl<sup>1</sup> (see page 4) must include all the following as a minimum specification:

- all top sheet wing netting sections to be made of diamond mesh netting of at least 600 mm mesh size
- all lower sheet wing netting sections to be made of diamond mesh netting of at least 600 mm mesh size
- the belly panel must be made of diamond mesh netting of at least 600 mm mesh size. It must extend across the full width of the trawl, be attached directly to the fishing line and extend towards the rear of the net for at least 7.5 m (stretched length)
- all top sheet netting directly above and forward of the belly panel must be made of diamond mesh netting of at least 600 mm mesh size

\*\* Installed in accordance with current technical conservation regulations (EC 850/98).<sup>2</sup> **Note:** This requirement will not apply in targeted Queen Scallop *Aequipecten opercularis* (QSC) fisheries.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/annex-c-specification-eliminator-trawl-tr1-gear>

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EC) 850/98 may be viewed at URL: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:31998R0850&rid=1>

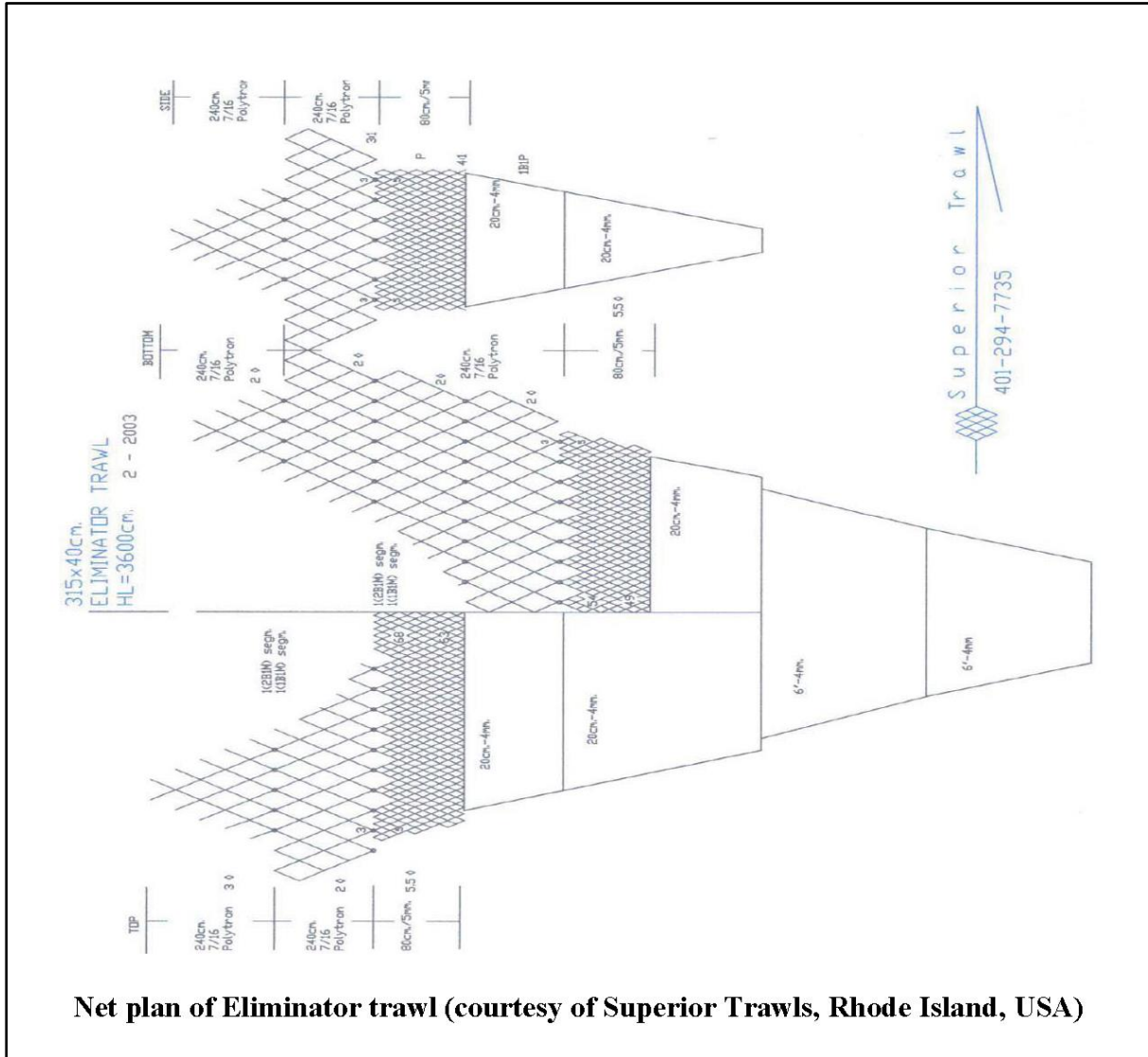


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Net plan of Eliminator trawl (courtesy of Superior Trawls, Rhode Island, USA)