

Technical note¹

The drawings (attached) which illustrate the alternative gear proposed by Swedish fishermen (i.e. 80 meshes round, length 9 metres) are incorrect.

Regulation 2187/2005 states that the circumference of the codend must be 50% of the last row of meshes of the tapered part of the trawl (Annex 2 “specification of the trawl T90”, point (d)3).

Point (e) “Circumference” of the same Annex states that “The number of meshes in any circumference in the codend and the extension piece, excluding joinings and selvages shall be no more than 50”.

Therefore, if we use 50 meshes in the T90 codend, we must attach them to 100 meshes of the last row of the trawl belly. It should be mentioned that the authors of the T90 trawl had proposed to return to the original solution, that is to maintain the ratio of the meshes at 3/5 or 4/5.

The majority of cod trawls have for many years had 100 meshes at the end of trawl belly.

The current provision contained in the Delegated Regulation 2018/47 allows for the use of 115 mm meshes on condition that the number of meshes in the codend is 80, and the length of the codend is at least 9 m.

At the same, time point 2 of the Regulation states that “the codend shall meet all other specifications laid down in Appendix 2 to that Annex”.

This means that 115 mm meshes, as stipulated in the Regulation, must be joined to 160 meshes of the trawl belly. In most demersal trawls, this is impossible to achieve if the standard construction of the trawl is to be maintained.

Such a solution is impossible to implement due to the fact that the standard construction of the codend should allow for adequate water flow and behaviour of the fish inside the codend.

At the same time, we would like to underline that the technical solutions proposed in the recommendation of the BSAC sent to the European Commission in 2015 are still valid. The BSAC recommendation strongly called for a deletion of technical specifications of gears, so as to give more flexibility to the fishermen.

Taking into account that neither the BSAC nor the fishermen have been consulted on the provisions included in the Delegated Regulation, we propose to amend the text by adding the following point (d):

(d) at the point of attachment of the codend or extension piece to the tapered part of the trawl the number of meshes in circumference of the codend or extension piece must be at least 50% of the last row of meshes of tapered part of the trawl, by the way of derogation from point (d) item 3 of Appendix 2 to that Annex.

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Such a provision allows for the use of the ratio from $\frac{1}{2}$ up to 1/. Therefore a codend with 80 meshes in circumference could be attached to 80 or 100 meshes, with a maximum of 160 meshes in the last row of the trawl belly.

Apart from the practical value, this solution is more in line with the original T90 codend and meets the selectivity objectives.

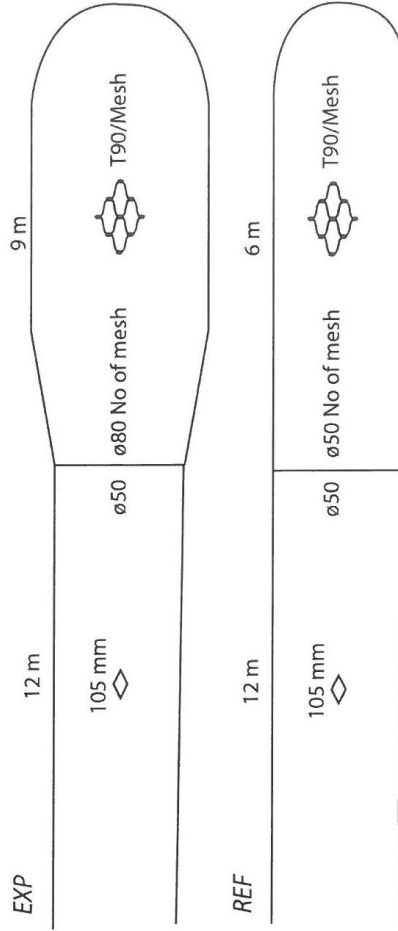
Contrary to the statement contained in the Delegated Regulation 2018/47, STECF did not provide a scientific contribution confirming that the alternative T90 will improve selectivity and reduce the amounts of unwanted catches; it recommends further testing in order to demonstrate the increased selectivity.

The same point says: “

“.... Member States have submitted a joint recommendation to the Commission, after consulting the Baltic Sea Advisory Council”.

The BSAC has not provided such a recommendation. The BSAC recommendation refers only to a 110 mm mesh size.

Design

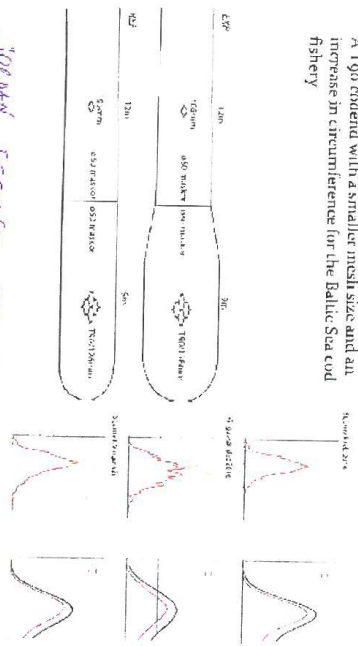


| # Experiment | Mesh | EXP | REF |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | Mesh size (mm) | 118 (115-120) | 126 (122-130) |
| | Thread (n/mm) | 2/4 | 2/4 |
| | Material | PE | Nylon |
| 2 | Mesh size (mm) | 115 (115-116) | 121 (120-122) |
| | Thread (n/mm) | 2/4 | 2/4 |
| | Material | PE | PE |



Ideas in Selektivt Fiske (Baltic Sea)

A T-gate codend with a smaller mesh size and an increase in circumference for the Baltic Sea cod fishery



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