

Trial to support Irish Industry in assessing scallop size selectivity in the Channel



Trial vessel



Fishing gear

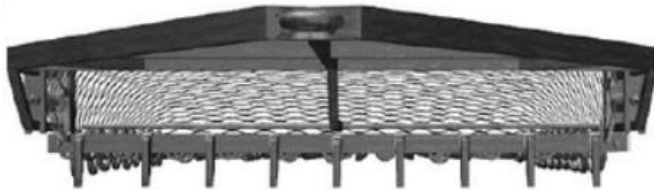
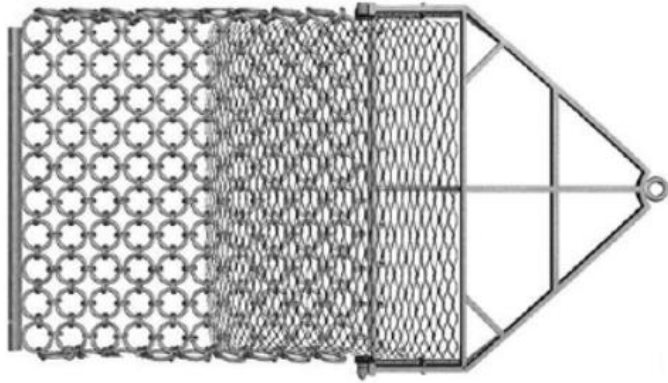
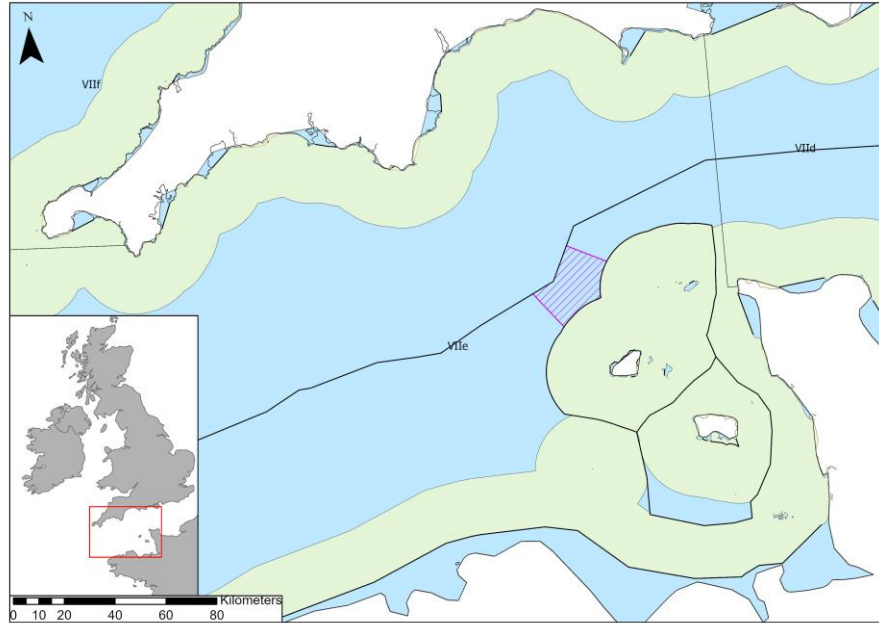
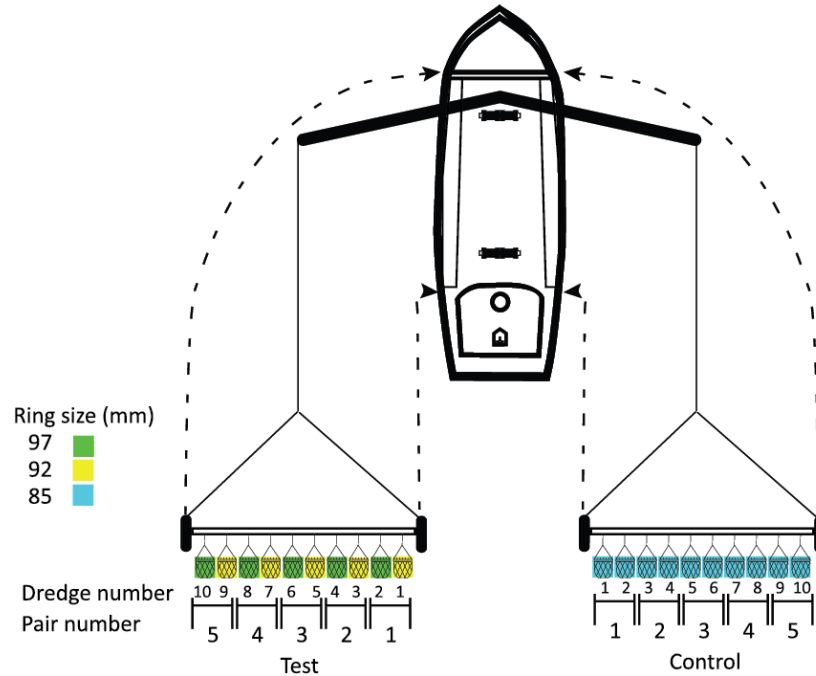


Image source: Boulcott, P., McLay, H.A., Allen, L. and Clarke, S., 2012. Scallop abundance in the Lamlash Bay No Take Zone: a baseline study. *Scottish Marine and Freshwater Science*, 3(7).

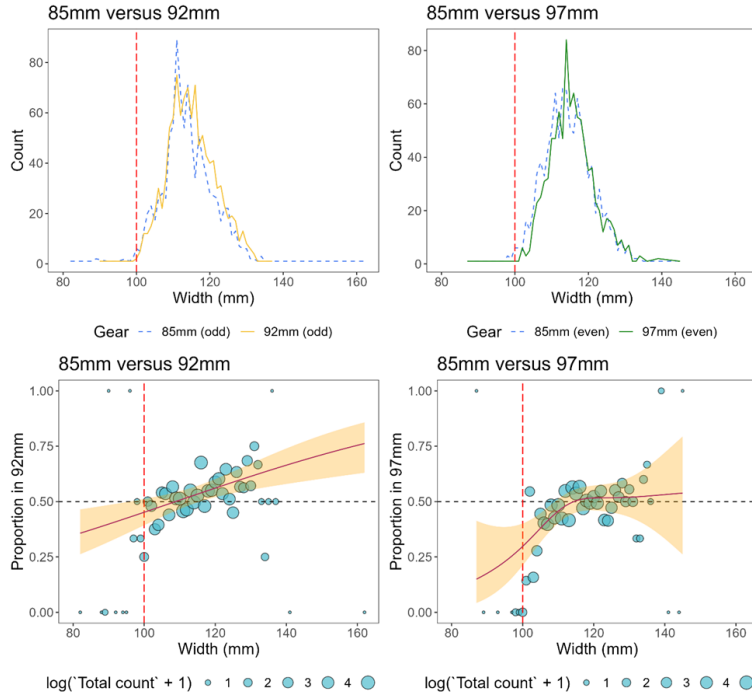
Trial details



Trial location and experimental design



Results



Key findings:

- Significant reduction in $<$ MCRS (100 mm) scallops in 92 mm ring size.
- No loss of \geq MCRS scallops using 92 mm
- Significant loss in \geq MCRS scallops in 97 mm.

Conclusions

Our sampling protocol attempted to account for differences in dredge fishing power along a beam. It was impossible to change the ring bags from one beam to another to assess differences in fishing power due to poor weather.

The trial Skipper kept the 92 mm gear on board his vessel after the trial and reported some loss of above 100 mm MCRS scallops as the gear became more worn.

These caveats aside the results are similar to the findings of a French study conducted in the eastern Channel (ICES 7.d) (SELEDRAG, Foucher et al., 2020).

A similar trial is planned in the eastern Channel in October 2024.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to Margaret, Joseph and Ciaran Whelan of the MFV Willie Joe, John Lynch of the ISEFPO and John Harrington of JSD Marine Services.

This work was authorised by the Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; funded by the Irish Government; and part-financed by the European Union through the EMFAF Operational Programme 2021 – 2027.

Report is available for download at:

<https://bim.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Scallop-Ring-Size-Trial-Report-2024.pdf>



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Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach

Co-Funded by the
European Union

