

Fishing gear glossary for the matrix (by gear type)

Towed (demersal)

Beam trawl: Trawl towed on the seabed in which the net is held open by a wood or steel beam.

Pulse beam trawl: Innovative new whitefish beam trawl method using electric current.

Wing beam trawl: Uses sumwing and tickler chains to fish for whitefish.

Otter trawl: Trawl towed on the seabed, held open by a pair of otter boards (trawl doors). Typically allows greater ground cover than a beam trawl. There are a wide variety of otter trawl varieties depending upon the nature of the ground to be fished and the target species. This includes light and heavy otter trawl designs. Heavy otter trawls include rock-hopper ground rope designs.

Heavy otter trawl: Any otter trawl that uses any of the following:

- sheet netting of greater than 4mm twine thickness
- rockhoppers or discs of 200mm or above diameter
- a chain for the foot/ground line (instead of wire)
- multiple tickler chains

Light otter trawl: Any otter trawl that uses anything less than the definition of a heavy otter trawl.

Multi-rig trawl/Outrig trawling: Method of towing two or more otter trawls side by side.

Pair trawl: Trawl towed between two boats, either on the seabed or in mid-water, held open by the distance apart of the two vessels. Covers small areas of hard seabed and can cover a swept area of 250 to 450 metres between boats with/without otter boards (trawl doors).

Anchor seine: An encircling net shot in the open sea using very long ropes to lay out the net and ropes on the seabed prior to hauling from a boat at anchor.

Scottish/fly seine: An encircling net shot in the open sea using very long ropes to lay out the net and ropes on the seabed prior to towing the net closed and hauling from a boat under its own power. Sometimes called fly dragging, fly shooting or Danish seine.

Towed (pelagic)

Mid-water trawl: Trawl towed by one vessel using a set of midwater doors to open the net horizontally. The position within the water column is controlled by the speed of the vessel and the amount of weight on the wing ends.

Mid-water trawl (pair): As above but towed by two vessels.

Semi pelagic trawl: towing a trawl close to the seabed but not in contact with it.

Industrial trawl: Small mesh towed net used to catch fish (such as sandeels, blue whiting or horse mackerel) for purposes other than human consumption.

Towed gear: The gear is towed through the water, either on or off the seabed, to overrun the target species or herd them into the net.

Dredges (towed)

Pump scoop dredging: Small shallow drafted boats tow or drag metal baskets along the seabed to collect cockles and clams.

Dredges (other)

Suction dredging: Use of hydraulic dredger to collect cockles.

Hand working: Use of hand, rakes and buckets to collect shellfish usually at low tide, accessed from the shore or by boat.

Dredge: Rigid structure towed on the seabed usually for shellfish.

Static – pots/traps

Traps: A collective term for structures into which fish or shellfish are guided or enticed through funnels that encourage entry but limit escape. Pots, creels, cuttle pots, fish trap, and so on.

Static – fixed nets

Gill nets: Single wall of netting which can either be fixed or allowed to drift. They catch fish by enmeshing or entangling them usually around their gill covers.

Trammel nets: Consists of three parallel panels of nets with different mesh sizes which can be used to catch a much wider variety of species.

Entangling nets: Nets with large meshes set on the seabed to capture shellfish and large whitefish such as monk, ray and turbot (also known as ray nets).

Fixed nets: Panel of gill nets anchored perpendicular in the water to catch fish.

Passive – nets

Drift nets: Panel of gill nets set perpendicular to the surface, allowed to drift with the tide or current to catch fish.

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Pelagic fishing: Fishing for targeted fish in the water column rather than on the seafloor.

Demersal gear: A collective term for fishing gear that is used on the seabed.

Static/passive gear: A collective term for gear is set to allow fish to swim into it, or they are attracted to it by bait and consequently become caught by the gear i.e. nets, long lines and traps.

Lines

Longlines: Longlines that can be anchored or drifting, comprising backing lines, of variable lengths, to which are attached a series of baited hooks on snoods.

Handlines: Fishing with a single fishing line by hand. Handlines is also a term used for 'gurdy' fishing for mackerel (a large hand operated reel).

Jigging: Jigging is a type of fishing with a rod or machine and is a type of fishing lure. A sinker with hooks on a single or multiple lines is jerked to attract many species of fish in both fresh and saltwater. Trolling is a method of towing artificial lures to attract fish.

Seine nets and other

Purse seine: A large net used to surround a shoal of pelagic fish, the bottom of which is then drawn together to enclose them.

Beach seine: An encircling net shot from a small boat then drawn ashore by ropes. This is sometimes called a dragnet.

Ring net: Net operated by surrounding a shoal of pelagic fish with a "wall" of netting, often operated by two boats. Works in a similar manner as a purse seine.

Miscellaneous

Shrimp push-nets: A triangular shape net with a wooden or metal frame used to collect shrimp. A handle is attached to the frame and pushed along the surface of sand in order to collect the shrimp (www.worldseafishing.com).

Fyke net: Is a conical shaped trap net with a circular or D shaped opening often with a guide panel/s of netting often used to catch eels (www.environment-agency.gov.uk/).

Stake nets: Is a net fixed by stakes generally in rivers or where the sea ebbs and flows in shallow intertidal zones (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fishing_net).

Commercial diving: Diving for commercial profit (such as rig divers or armed forces divers, scientists and those diving to fish/collect).

Bait fishing

Bait dragging: Rake is towed along the mudflats from a boat to gather worms.

Bait digging: Fork, spade or bait pump are used to collect bait for fishing.