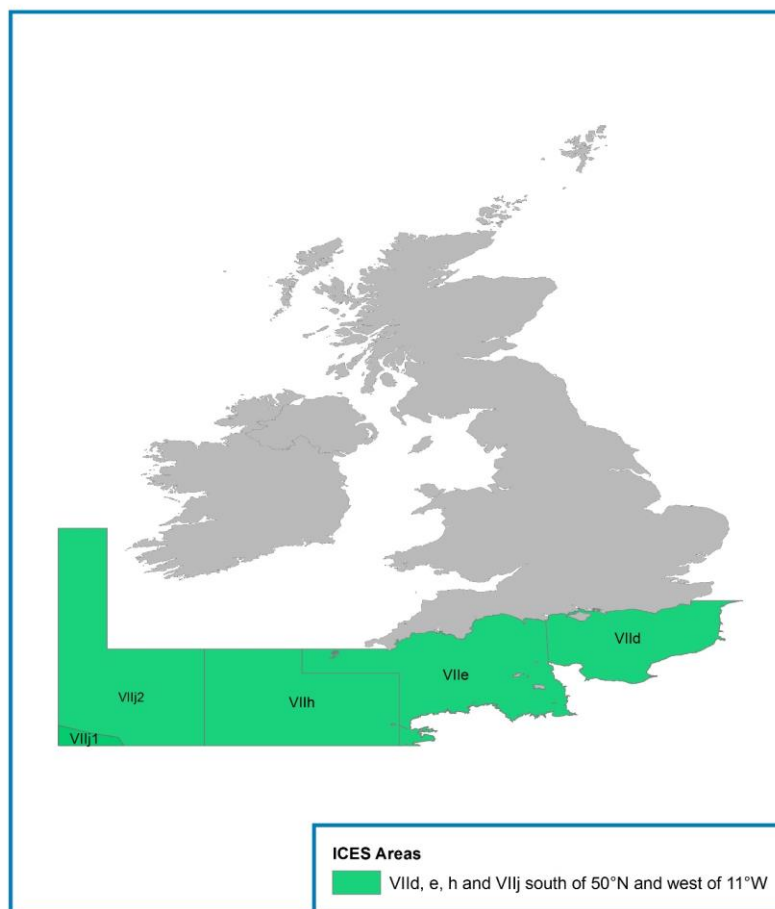




# Landing Obligation Guidance 2019

**Applicable to Demersal Towed Gears  
Fishing in the English Channel and Western Approaches  
(Excluding Beam Trawlers)**



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ICES Statistical Areas dataset 2010. ICES, Copenhagen



Marine  
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## 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 English Channel and Western Approaches which includes VIIId, e, h and that part of VIIj not covered by the Celtic Sea measures.

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:

Fish Species you can Discard	Fishing Gear	ICES Area	Conditions
Skates and Rays	All Gears	Refer to Note 1 (below)	No Conditions
Dover Sole (SOL) below the minimum size (24 cm)	Demersal Trawls	VIIId	<p><b>All conditions listed below must be met:</b></p> <p>Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80 mm.</p> <p>Fishing takes place no more than 6 Nautical Miles (NM) from the coast.</p> <p>The depth of water is no more than 30 m.</p> <p>The towing time is less than 1.5 hours duration (1 hour and 30 minutes).</p> <p>The fishing vessel is no more than 10 m long (LOA).</p> <p>The fishing vessel's engine power is 221 kW or less.</p>
Plaice (PLE)	Otter Trawlers	VIIId-VIIe	No Conditions
Nephrops (NEP)	Demersal Trawls and Seines	Refer to Note 1 (below)	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 100 mm.

**Note 1:** All areas in the English Channel and Western Approaches.



## De minimis Exemptions

The *De minimis* exemption allows a small percentage of the total catch of certain species to be discarded because it is difficult to completely avoid unwanted catches.

It is important that discards are recorded in your logbook. *De minimis* exemptions may be withdrawn where discard levels are too high.

The following species can be discarded under *De minimis* rules subject to conditions:

Fish Species you can Discard	Fishing Gear	ICES Area	Conditions
Whiting (WHG)	Demersal Trawls, Seines and Pair Trawlers	Refer to Note 1 (below)	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80 mm.
Haddock (HAD)	Demersal Trawls, Seines and Pair Trawlers	VIIe, h and j	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80 mm.
Cod (COD)	Demersal Trawls, Seines and Pair Trawlers	VIIe, h and j	Minimum cod-end mesh size of 80 mm.
Horse Mackerel (JAX)	Demersal Trawls, Seines and Pair Trawlers	Refer to Note 1 (below)	No Conditions.
Mackerel (MAC)	Demersal Trawls, Seines and Pair Trawlers	Refer to Note 1 (below)	No Conditions.

**Note 1:** All areas of the English Channel and the Western Approaches.