

Draft Co-opted Members Report to the Liaison Committee  
on Matters of Selectivity

New mesh selection experiments have been presented to the 1962 ICES Meeting, which are reported below.

A. Mesh differential between manila and polyethylene (Courlene) in the Barents Sea

Norwegian experiments carried out with covered cod-ends gave the following results, for catches of comparable sizes:-

	Cod	Haddock
Double-braided manila	3.8	3.2
Double-braided Courlene	3.8	3.2

One larger catch with a Courlene cod-end gave a selection factor of 3.5.

Whereas the figures obtained for cod are higher, and those for haddock slightly lower than the figures reported for the Arctic region in P.C. 10/145, these experiments confirm the previous conclusions regarding the mesh differential between manila and courlene, based on experiments in other regions.

B. Selection of whiting in Irish waters

Experiments carried out with covered cod-ends made of single Courlene showed that the by-catch of Nephrops and dogfish may decrease the selectivity of the trawls for whiting.

C. Selection and meshing in herring

Covered cod-end experiments carried out by Germany with polyamide (Perlon, nylon) herring trawls gave selection factors ranging from 4.1 to 4.6, with an average value of about 4.3. This figure is somewhat higher than the range reported for cod-ends made of cotton, manila and polyamide (Steclon) in P.C. 10/145

The catches made in the German experiments were on the average considerably higher than in the previous investigations.

The same type of experiment with a midwater-trawl gave selection factors of 4.2 and 4.4.

The experiments with the herring trawl showed that with the mesh size used (48.2 mm) the relative numbers of meshed herring ranged between 10 and 25%, the meshing percentage increasing with increased duration of tow, whereas no clear relationship was found between this percentage and the size of the catch.

The meshing factor (ratio between modal length of meshed fish and mesh size) found in these experiments confirmed the figure of about 4.5 reported before.

D. Selection in shrimp

Paired-haul experiments with shrimp beam trawls, using nylon cod-ends of mesh sizes ranging from 8.2-19.4 mm gave selection factors ranging between 2.0 and 2.8 (based on total length of shrimp) with an average of 2.4. The selection range is wide.

It appears that the selection factor is strongly dependent of the size of catch, decreasing with increasing catch size