

Regulations amending the regulations relating to the design and mounting of sorting grids in small-meshed trawls when fishing for blue whiting

On 7 April 2010, under section 16 of the Act of 6 June 2008 No. 37 relating to the management of wild living marine resources, section 98 of the Regulations of 22 December 2004 relating to sea-water fisheries, section 4 of the Act of 17 December 1976 No. 91 relating to the Economic Zone of Norway, and section 14 of the Regulations of 13 May 1977 relating to fishing and hunting operations by foreign nationals in the Economic Zone of Norway and landings in Norwegian ports, the Directorate of Fisheries adopted the following regulations:

I

The following amendments shall be made to the Regulations of 30 April 2009 No. 471 relating to the design and mounting of sorting grids in small-meshed trawls when fishing for blue whiting:

The title of the regulations (amended) shall read as follows:

Regulations relating to the design and mounting of sorting grids in small-meshed trawls when fishing for blue whiting and Norway pout

Section 1 (amended) shall read as follows:

Section 1 Requirement to use sorting grids

Sorting grids shall be used when fishing for blue whiting and Norway pout.

Sorting grids shall meet the conditions set out in sections 3-7.

Section 2 Exemptions (new) shall read as follows:

The Directorate of Fisheries may on application grant temporary exemptions from the requirement to use sorting grids to the following:

- a) smaller vessels that do not have sufficient engine power to use ordinary small-meshed trawls;
- b) vessels that are equipped for the production of fish for human consumption and that can document operations involving deliveries of fish for human consumption in combination with fishing specifically for blue whiting and Norway pout in the period 2007–09.

The Directorate of Fisheries may lay down further conditions related to exemptions under the first paragraph.

The current sections 2-8 become sections 3-9.

These regulations enter into force on 1 May 2010.

The amended regulations read as follows:

Regulations relating to the design and mounting of sorting grids in small-meshed trawls when fishing for blue whiting and Norway pout

On 30 April 2009, under section 16 of the Act of 6 June 2008 No. 37 relating to the management of wild living marine resources, section 98 of the Regulations of 22 December 2004 relating to sea-water fisheries, section 4 of the Act of 17 December 1976 No. 91 relating to the Economic Zone of Norway, and section 14 of the Regulations of 13 May 1977 relating to fishing and hunting operations by foreign nationals in the Economic Zone of Norway and landings in Norwegian ports, the Directorate of Fisheries adopted the following regulations:

Section 1 Requirement to use sorting grids

Sorting grids shall be used when fishing for blue whiting and Norway pout.

Sorting grids shall meet the conditions set out in sections 3-7.

Section 2 Exemptions

The Directorate of Fisheries may on application grant temporary exemptions from the requirement to use sorting grids to the following:

- a) smaller vessels that do not have sufficient engine power to use ordinary small-meshed trawls;
- b) vessels that are equipped for the production of fish for human consumption and that can document operations involving deliveries of fish for human consumption in combination with fishing specifically for blue whiting and Norway pout in the period 2007–09.

The Directorate of Fisheries may lay down further conditions related to exemptions under the first paragraph.

Section 3 Distance between bars

The distance between the bars of a sorting grid shall not exceed 40 mm.

Section 4 Mounting

Sorting grids shall be mounted across the trawl, in such a way that three sides of a grid are attached to the trawl. This means that the upper and side panels of the trawl are attached to the frame of the grid. The lower edge of the grid(s) shall be attached to a guiding funnel through which fish can escape. Sorting grids are to be mounted in front of the codend or in the extension of the codend.

A sorting grid shall not be mounted at an angle exceeding 50°.

Section 5 Fish outlet

There shall be a rectangular fish outlet in the lower panel of the trawl through which fish can escape.

The opening of the fish outlet shall be behind the lower edge of the sorting grid. The width of the fish outlet shall be the same as that of the sorting grid, and the front edge shall be one metre behind the lower rear edge of the sorting grid. The front edge of the fish outlet is to be cut straight across the lower panel of the trawl (T direction). The sides of the fish outlet are to be cut about 60 cm straight towards the rear of the trawl along the lower selvages (N direction), and the rear edge across the lower panel (T direction), to give a rectangular fish outlet.

Section 6 Guiding funnel

There shall be a guiding funnel from the lower edge of the sorting grid to the rear edge of the fish outlet.

The mesh size of the guiding funnel shall be the same as that used in the section of the trawl containing the sorting grid(s).

The guiding funnel shall be attached to the lower rear part of the sorting grid, along the selvages to the rear edge of the fish outlet and along the rear edge of the fish outlet.

Section 7 Specifications

Two different types of sorting grids may be used:

- “Flexipanel” grids, which consist of plastic bars held together with Dyneema yarn (or similar)
- Steel grids.

The largest permitted dimensions (length x breadth) for a “Flexipanel” grid are 360 cm x 180 cm.

If steel grids are used, the total length shall not exceed 360 cm. Up to four grids of equal length may be used. The maximum permitted width of a steel grid is 180 cm and the minimum permitted width is 130 cm.

Section 8 Penalties

Any person who wilfully or negligently contravenes provisions set out in these regulations is liable to a penalty under sections 61 and 64 of the Act of 6 June 2008 No. 37 relating to the management of wild living marine resources and section 8 of the Act of 17 December 1976 No. 91 relating to the Economic Zone of Norway. Complicity or an attempt to contravene the said provisions is subject to the same penalty.

Section 9 Entry into force

These regulations enter into force immediately.