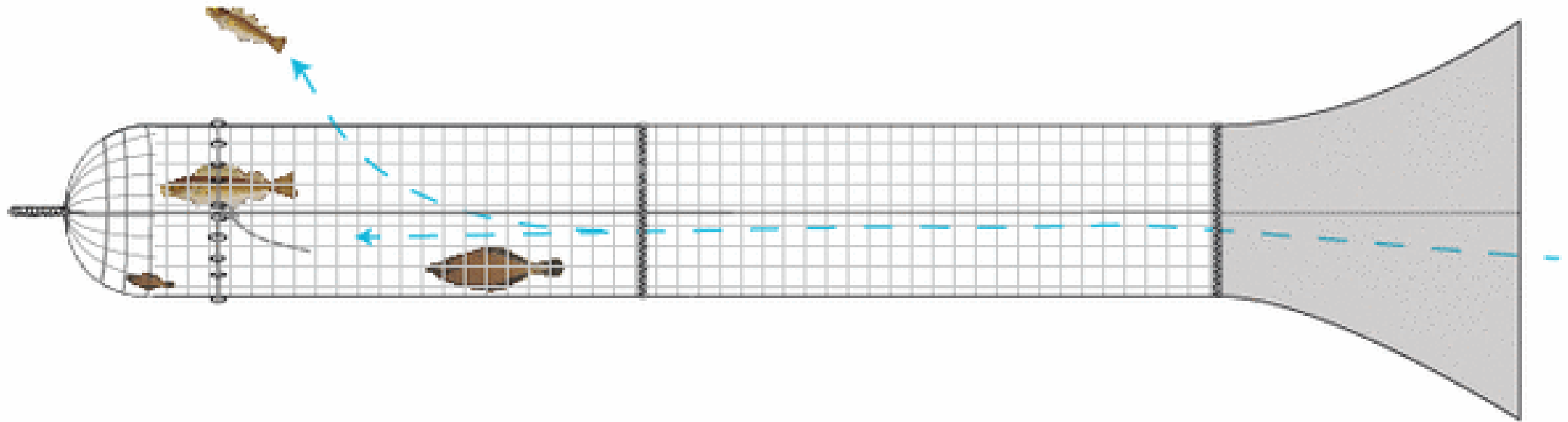




Promoting Sustainability in Fisheries through Improved Bottom Trawl Gear Selectivity



The issue of trawling and bycatch, Diamond Vs Square mesh cod end

- In India it is estimated that 56.3% of the total catch of shrimp trawlers are bycatch (juveniles, non targeted species, ETP species)
- Gear selectivity & mesh size plays a critical role in reducing bycatch
- **Diamond mesh (in use):** The demerit is the net gets extended resulting in lesser opening resulting in bycatch of juveniles
- **Square mesh:** The lumen does not stretch and remain open making it easy for the juveniles and small fishes to escape
- WWF advocating for square mesh cod end and recently amended in the Kerala Marine Fisheries Regulation Act.
- Expanding this initiative to Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh & Odisha

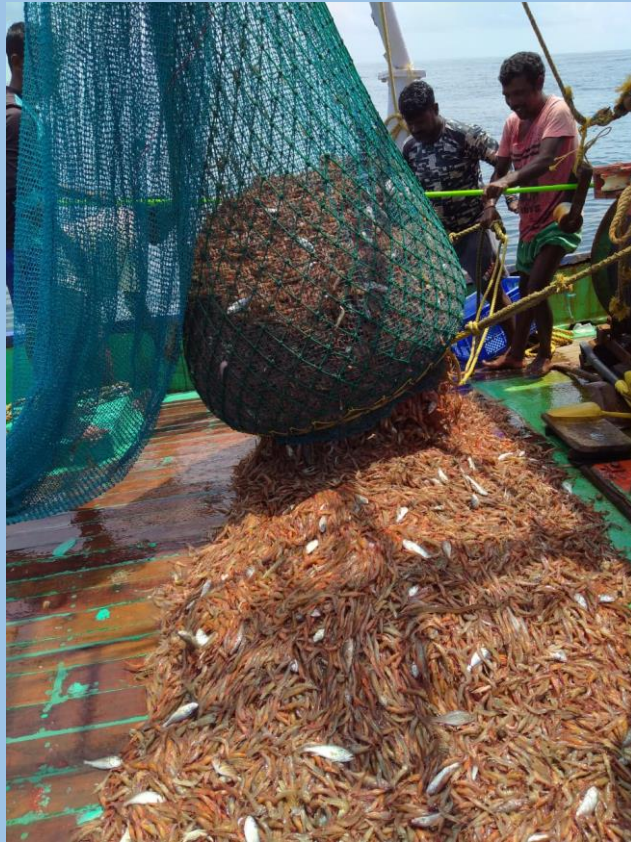


Diamond mesh



Square mesh

Trawl catch using square mesh cod end



KMFRA Amendment on square mesh cod end

5

(5) Fishing in any specified area by trawl net, seine net, gill net and drift net in contravention to the dimension of gear and type and size of mesh as specified below is prohibited under clause (d) of sub-section (1) of section 4, namely:—

TABLE

Name of Gear	Vernacular name	Minimum mesh size (mm)	Type of mesh	Maximum Dimension (hung length and hung depth)
Trawl nets				
Fish/cephalopod trawl net	Trawlvala	35	Square	
Shrimp trawl net	Trawlvala	25	Square	
Seine net				
Anchovy seine nets	Netholivala	10	Diamond	250 m × 50 m
Sardine/Mackerel seine net	Chalavala	22	Diamond	600 m × 60 m
Gill net/Drift net				
Sardine net	Mathivala/ Chalavala	33	Diamond	2000 m × 10 m
Mackerel net	Aiylavala	50	Diamond	2000 m × 10 m
Seer fish net	Ayakooravala/ Neymeenvala	104	Diamond	5000 m × 18 m
Pomfret net	Avolivala	126	Diamond	5000 m × 18 m
Prawn net	Konchuvala/ Chemmeenvala	38	Diamond	2000 m × 10 m
Tuna net	Chooravala	80	Diamond	5000 m × 18 m
Croaker net	Koravala	40	Diamond	2000 m × 10 m

Letter to WWF India from Dept. of Fisheries

File No.DFTVM/2455/2020-G3



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

DFTVM/2455/2020-G3

Office of the Director of Fisheries,
Thiruvananthapuram
Dated 11/08/2021
Phone: 0471-2305042
e-mail: fisheriesdirector@gmail.com

From
The Director of Fisheries
To
The Programme Director
WWF, NewDelhi

Sir,
Sub:- Fisheries -Implementation of Fishery Improvement Programme-reg.

Ref:- Letter from Programme Director, WWF

Attention is invited to the subject and reference. It gives us immense pleasure to hear the steps taken by WWF in the conservation & sustainability of fish resources by promoting certification/ecolabelling of species. Department of Fisheries is hereby extend full support and co-operation for the Fishery Improvement Programme, Model fish boat project and Monitoring & Enforcement of KMFR Act. I may also inform that Government have accorded Administrative Sanction for MSC certification of Sardine and Villorita species in the current financial year. We may discuss the action plan of the programme in the forthcoming meetings.

Signature valid
Digitally signed by
SREELUN S
Date: 2021.08.11
16:41:58 GST
Reason: Approved

Yours faithfully,
SREELUN S
ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR
For Director of Fisheries.

Partners

- *Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (technical)*
- *Department of Fisheries (Policy)*
- *MPEDA-NETFISH, Ministry of Commerce (Community outreach)*
- *Local NGO's*