

THE FISHERIES (CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT) ORDINANCE 2005

LICENCE PART 2

ALL SPECIES OF SKATE(*Rajidae*)

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

A. Fishing Area

A1. The licence is only valid for fishing in the area depicted as the permitted fishing area on the chart attached and titled: **Falkland Conservation Zones – valid Fishing Area: Licence Category F.**

A2. The licensee must not fish in the area depicted on the attached chart as the area closed to vessels operating on a category F licence.

A3. The licenced vessel shall not proceed through the closed area for transit purposes unless all nets and fishing gear are stowed in such a way as to be unavailable for use.

B. Mesh and Net Regulations

B1. The licensee must comply with the provisions of the Fishing (Nets and Supplementary Net Equipment) Regulations Order 1990.

a) A strengthening bag is permitted only when the mesh size of such a bag is at least one and a half times the minimum mesh size of a permitted trawl net (presently 110mm), i.e the strengthening bag mesh size, measured by inserting an approved net gauge by its narrowest extremity into the mesh opening along the diagonal of the mesh, must be at least 165mm. Any strengthening bag used must not obscure or extend over the square mesh panel referred to in licence condition B4 below.

b) If a strengthening bag is not used, belly chafers may be used, provided that the mesh size of the chafers is at least one and a half times the minimum mesh size, measured by inserting an approved net gauge by its narrowest extremity into the mesh opening along the long diagonal of the mesh, must be at least 165mm. Belly chafers must be unattached at the lower end.

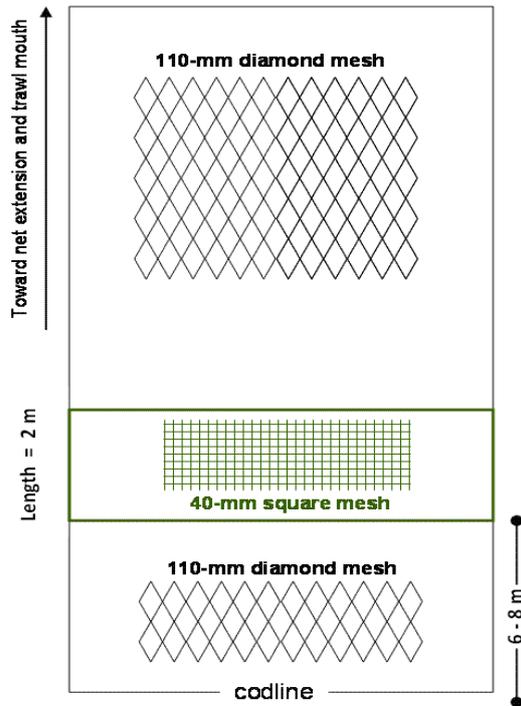
c) **The use of top chafers is prohibited.**

d) Round or lifting straps may be used, so long as they are no smaller than the circumference of the cod-end measured with the meshes stretched. The distance between each strap must be no less than 1 metre.

B2. The minimum mesh size of trawl nets including cod-ends is 110mm, measured by inserting an approved net gauge by its narrowest extremity into the mesh opening along the long diagonal of the mesh.

B3. Cod-end liners of any size MUST NOT be used by the licensee.

B4 A 40mm square mesh panel shall be inserted a minimum of 6 metres from the codline and no more than 8 metres from the codline. The INSIDE of the mesh should measure at least 40mm when inserting an approved net gauge by its narrowest extremity into the mesh. The mesh panel should be at least 2 metres in length and should cover the whole upper part of the codend. No straps or other attachments shall be placed on or over the mesh panel, that would reduce the size of the panel in any way.



C. Mitigation of Seabird Mortalities

C1. In order to minimise seabird interactions with trawl warps:

- a) **Discards from the ship of unwanted whole fish, offal and waste must cease when trawl warps are in the water and the Bird Scaring Lines are not deployed** (i.e. net hauling, door and net retrieval, net and door deployments, and paying out of warp cable).
- b) In order to reduce incidental seabird mortalities through warp strikes, all trawlers **must deploy two Bird Scaring Lines**. One Bird Scaring Line must be deployed on each side of the ship outboard of the trawl warps.
- c) Bird Scaring Lines must be deployed as soon as the trawl doors are submerged, throughout the trawl, until hauling operations commence. **If the Bird Scaring Lines are not deployed during shooting or hauling then factory processing and discarding must cease.**

d) Bird Scaring Lines must be fixed at stern of the vessel from attachment points higher than the trawl blocks and **no more than 2 metres horizontally** from the trawl blocks. Extension pieces may need to be fabricated to allow correct positioning of the Bird Scaring Lines. Fisheries Officers may advise of correct fixing points during inspections.

e) The first Bird Scaring Lines streamer must be positioned at 1 metre distance from the stern of the vessel, **as measured at the waterline**.

f) A third spare Bird Scaring Lines must be available for immediate deployment in the event of a mishap with either of the two Bird Scaring Lines in use.

C2. All vessels must conform to the following design of Bird Scaring Lines as shown in figures 1a and 1b. This design has been tested and shown to significantly reduce the number of seabirds hitting the trawl warps whilst foraging astern of fishing vessels, reducing bird entanglements and improving durability.

a) The lines must be made from **8-10 millimetre floating line**, either laid or pleated. The recommended total length of the line astern the vessel is **30 metres**. Depending on the distance between the stern of the vessel and the warp/water interface, the total Bird Scaring Line length **may vary between 27 metres and 33 metres**. This variation in length can only be adjusted for between the last streamer and the buoy.

b) Six double streamers are to be attached at intervals indicated in Fig 1. Attachment may be by light weight swivels (less than 50 grams) with stoppers or directly into the lay of the rope (Fig 1a). Streamer lengths range from 2 x 8 metre streamers closest to the stern to 2 x 3 metre streamers nearest the buoy. The length of the first set of streamers (2 x 8 metre and 2 x 7 metre) may be adjusted to optimise mobility and reduce drag (Fig 1b). The length of these two sets may vary between 2 x 7.5 - 8.5 metres and 2 x 6.5 - 7.5 metres for the first and second respectively (Fig 1a).

c) It is required that the streamers be made from semi-flexible tubing of high visibility (red, orange or yellow). The recommended tubing is **Red Mazzerpur 10 millimetre** polyurethane tubing. Polythene and materials such as fire hose; old waterproofs, nylon covered rope, and dark coloured tubing are **NOT ACCEPTABLE**.

d) The drag buoy is a net covered 300 millimetre diameter HDP moulded fishing float attached by a swivel. Any other buoys are **NOT ACCEPTABLE**.

Fig 1a. Design of Approved Bird Scaring Lines

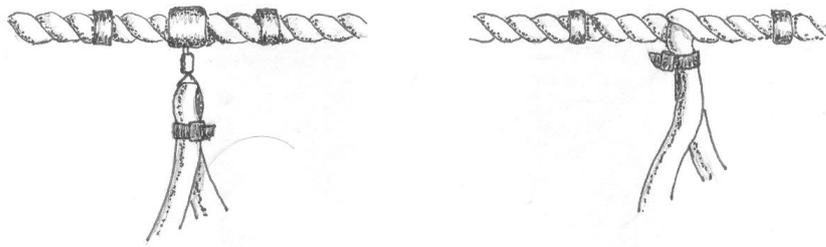
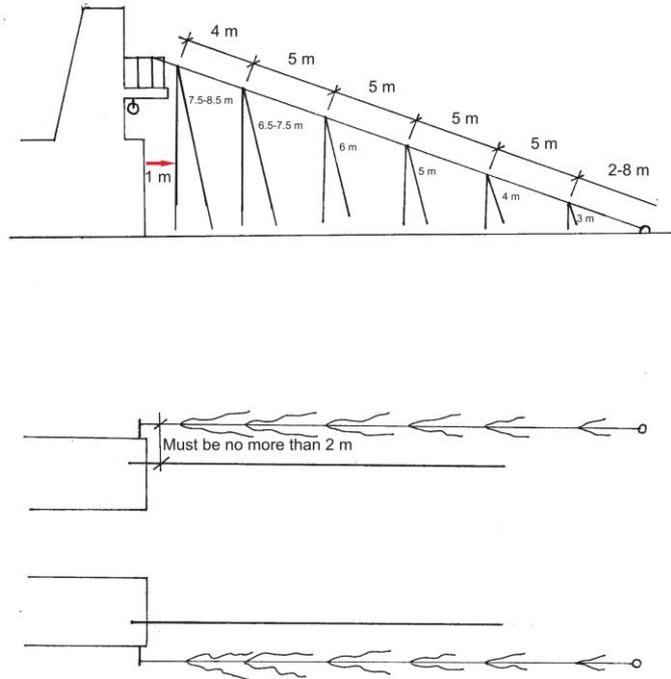


Fig 1b. Bird Scaring Line specifications



- e) Nets **MUST** be cleaned prior to shooting to remove items that might attract birds.

D. Multiple Licences

D1. This section applies to vessels issued more than one licence type (multiple licences) with overlapping valid periods. If the licenced vessel is already fishing in the fishing waters of the Falkland Islands on a licence issued by the Falkland Islands Government it must not change to operating on another licence type without the Master giving the required notice that operations are to commence under a different licence type. A change of licence must apply to a full fishing day (whole calendar day). The minimum period of notice to be given to the Director of Fisheries (through FISHOPS) of a change of licence type is by noon (1200) Stanley time on the day prior to the change in licence types coming into effect.