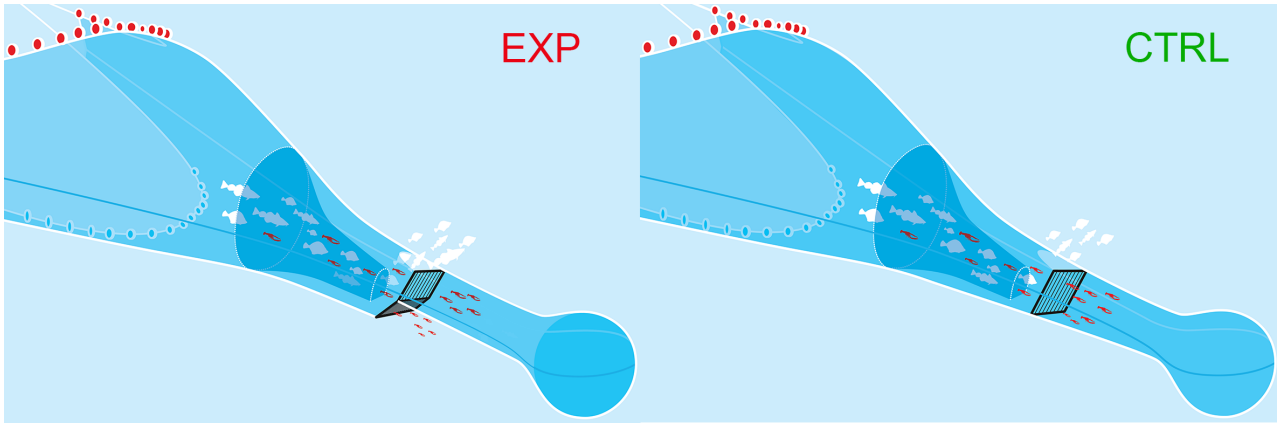
A combination grid for Northern prawn trawls

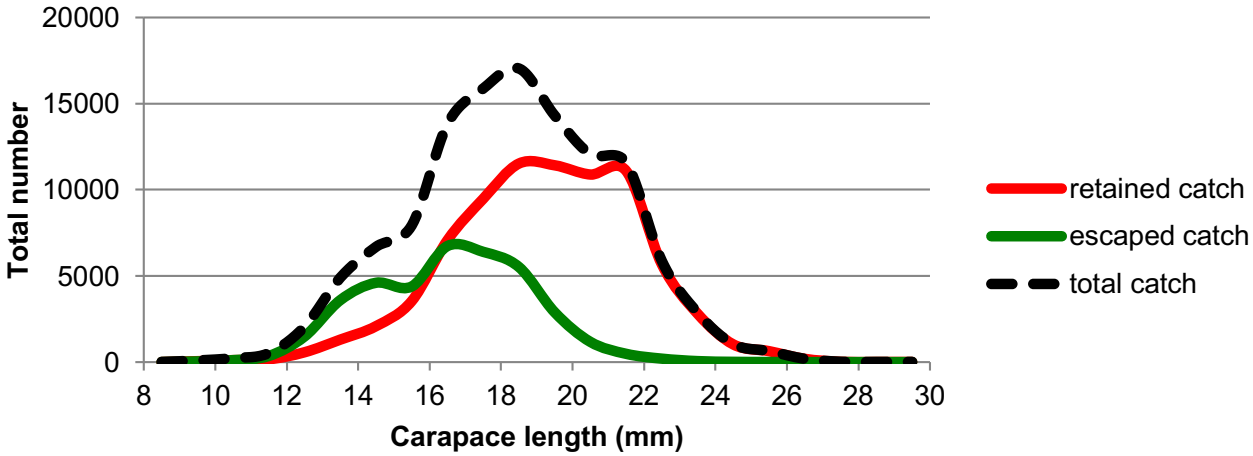
- to reduce catches of small Pandalus

Fishery / target species: Bottom trawling for Northern prawn (*Pandalus borealis*)
Area: Skagerrak, Kattegatt and eastern North Sea (ICES divisions 3.a and 4.a East)
Vessels: SD 511 Eros III, LOA 15,3 m / 245 kW och GG 707 Arkö, LOA 26,1m/736 kW
Gear: Northern prawn trawl with Nordmøre grid
Gear modification: A two-section Nordmøre grid that combines species- and size selectivity in *Pandalus* trawls. The lower grid section has narrow (9-10 mm) bar spacing to sort out small shrimp and the upper grid section has standard 19 mm bar spacing to sort out fish by-catches

Experimental design (**EXP**=experimental trawl, **CTRL**= standard trawl)



Results (retained and escaped *Pandalus* by size)



Conclusions

- The combination grid sorted out unwanted sizes of *Pandalus* effectively. At least 60 % of the smallest shrimp fraction was sorted out, but also catches of medium sized (industrial) shrimp was reduced significantly.
- Loss of the largest (fresh consumption) shrimps was around 5 % but was affected by the choice of lower grid bar spacing
- The combination grid is legal to use but additional incentives are probably needed due to limited up-take in the fishery

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