

‘A’ LICENCE
FINFISH

PART 2

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

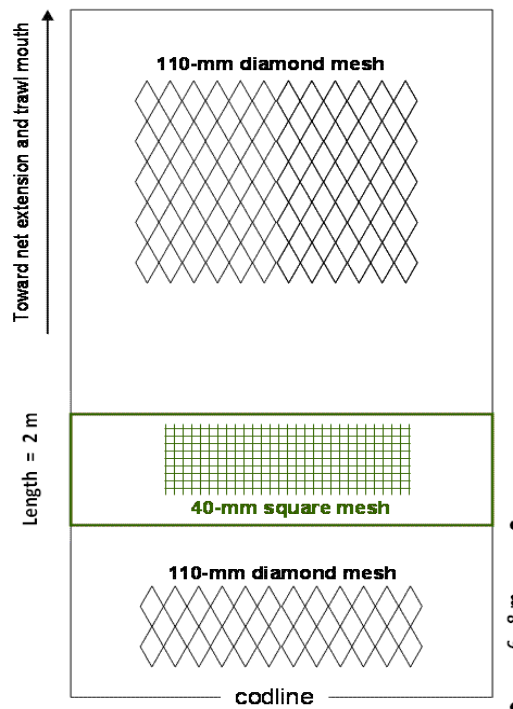
1. Fishing Area

- a) 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 A.**
- b) The licenced vessel must not proceed through closed areas for transit purposes unless all nets and fishing gear are stowed in such a way as to be unavailable for use.

2. Mesh and Net Regulations

- a) The licensee must comply with the provisions of the Fishing (Nets and Supplementary Net Equipment) Regulations Order 1990.
- b) 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). 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 (h) below.
- c) 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, is at least 165mm. Belly chafers must be unattached at the lower end.
- d) The use of top chafers is prohibited.
- e) 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.
- f) 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.

- g) Cod-end liners of any size must not be used by the licensee.
- h) A 40mm square mesh panel must 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 cod-end. No straps or other attachments that would reduce the size of the panel in any way shall be placed on or over the mesh panel.
- i) The use of a tickler chain is prohibited.



3. By-catch

- a) The permitted species under this licence are: **Common Hake** (*Merluccius hubbsi*), **Southern Hake** (*Merluccius australis*), **Southern Blue Whiting** (*Micromesistius australis*), **Hoki** (*Macruronus magellanicus*), **Red Cod** (*Salilota australis*), **Kingclip** (*Genypterus blacodes*), **Rock Cod** (*patagonotothen ramsayi*), **Butterfish** (*Stromateus brasiliensis*) and **Driftfish** (*Seriotelella porosa*).
- b) The total **daily** (average across trawls) aggregate by-catch limit for species that are not permitted under this licence type is 10%. The following species must be included in the calculation of by-catch: **Loligo** (*Doryteuthis gahi*), **Short Fin Squid** (*Illex argentinus*), **Toothfish** (*Dissostichus eleginoides*), **Skates** (*Rajidae*) and **Grenadier** (*Macrourus spp.*).

- c) The total daily aggregate by-catch limit for **Toothfish** (*Dissostichus eleginoides*) is **1.5%**.
- d) All other species must be reported but the catch for these species should not be included in the 10% by-catch calculation figures.
- e) **If a vessel exceeds the 10% by-catch limit of non-permitted species, the grid square reported as the mid-day position is then closed to that vessel for fishing for 10 days and the vessel must not enter the closed grid square unless all nets and fishing gear are stowed in such a way as to be unavailable for use.**
- f) **The Director reserves the right to instruct individual vessels with regards to further grid square closures, if it is believed that mid-day positions are either: not indicative of, or an accurate representation of, fishing activity.**

4. Seal Exclusions Devices (SEDs)

- a) The use of SEDs is not compulsory from the start of fishing but all vessels must have available an SED which complies with the specifications set out in *Guidance Notes for Masters 2023*.
- b) Vessels must deploy a compliant SED if instructed to do so by the Director of Natural Resources.