BIM Fisheries Conservation Work in Whitefish Fisheries

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Outline

- **Aims**
- **Team**
- **Challenges**
- **Solutions**
- **Future work**

Aims

- **Provide technical support to the Irish fishing sector**

- **Help the sector make best use of available resources**

- **Develop technical solutions to meet environmental and regulatory challenges**

- **Develop technical solutions to improve carbon efficiency**

- **Promote and communicate work that builds societal support for the Irish fisheries sector and BIM**

BIM Ireland's Seafood Development Agency

The Fisheries Conservation Team

MFVs

Celtic Warrior
& Chieftan
Stella Nova
Arkh Angell
Foyle Warrior
& Fisher
Our Lass II
Northern Celt
Dearbhla
Ocean Breeze
Karen Mary
Roise Catriona
Eblana

Key Challenges

- **EU Landing Obligation**
- **Carbon Efficiency**
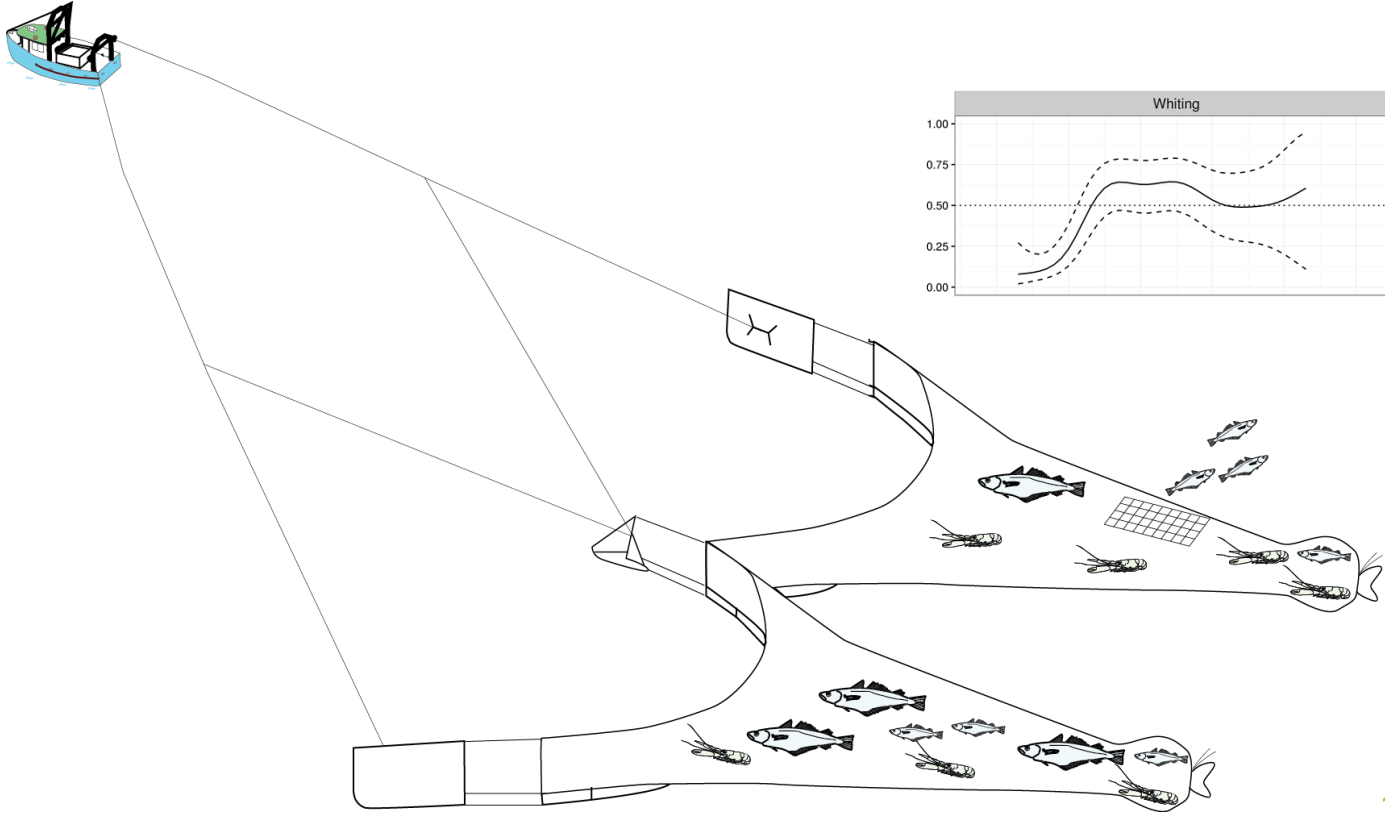- **Profitability**
- **Biodiversity**
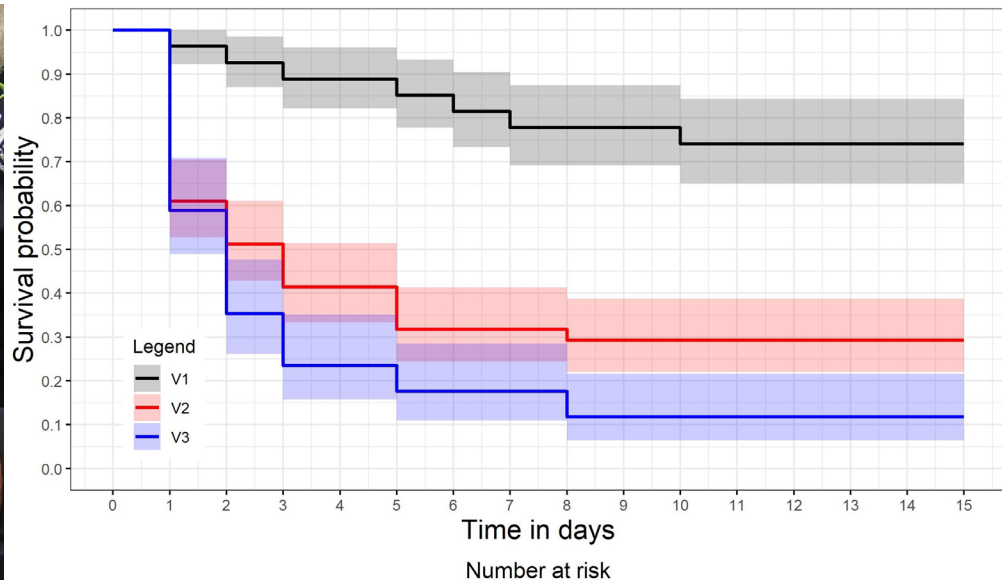- **Societal Support**
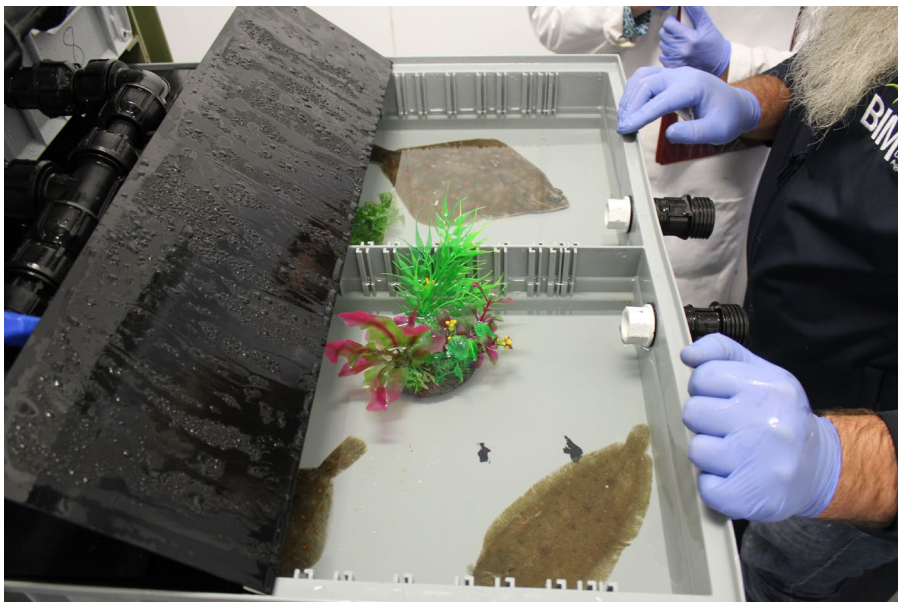
EU Landing Obligation

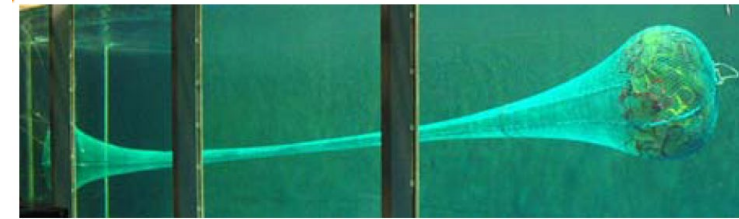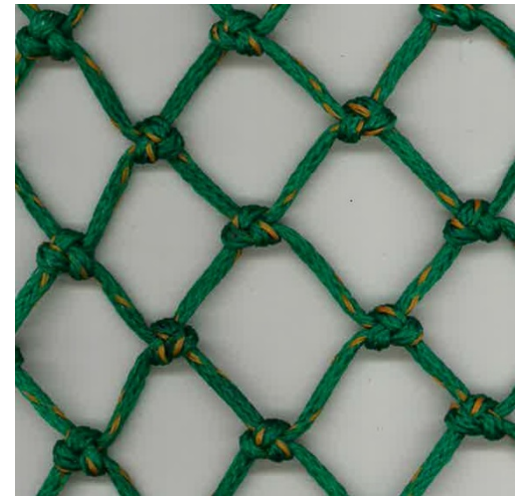- Small fish

- Over quota fish

Solutions: Gear modifications

Solutions: Survivability studies
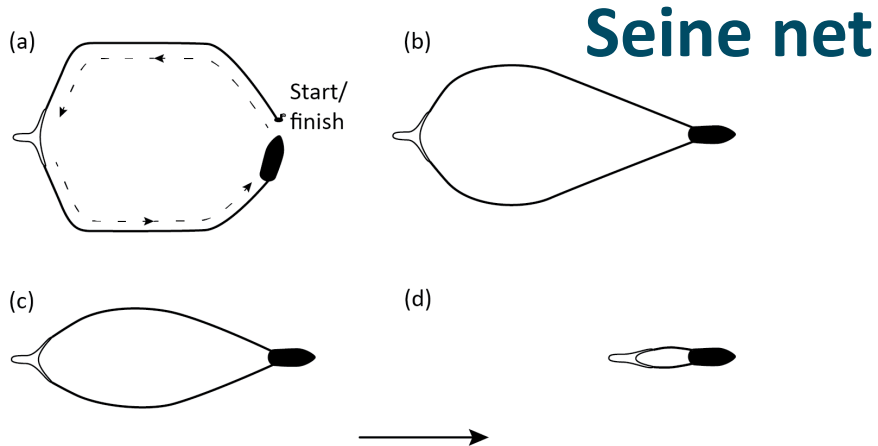
Small fish – 80 mm T90

- 67% reduction in below market size whiting (32 cm)
- 16% increase in market size fish
- Major improvements in fish quality

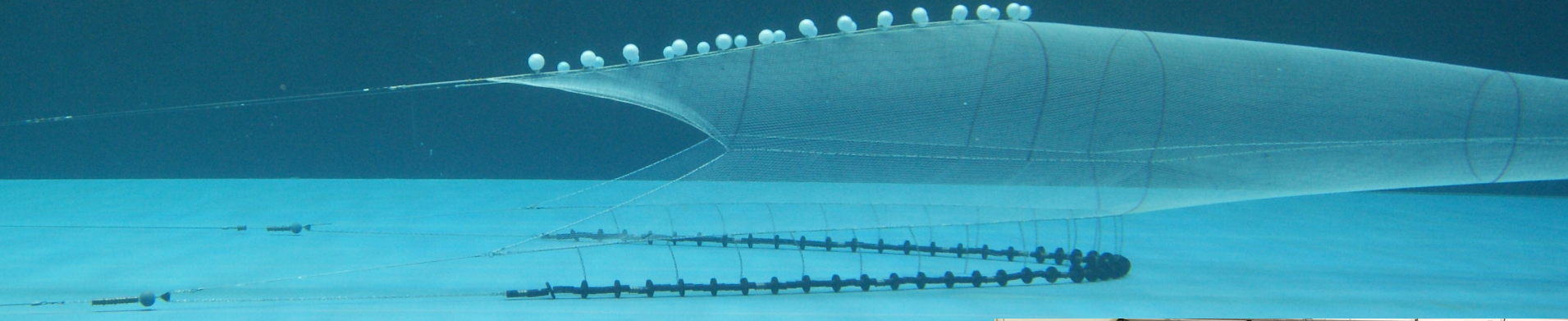*Top: Standard codend; bottom: T90 codend*

Small fish

- **120 mm diamond added Celtic Sea**
- **100 mm T90 under review in Irish Sea**
- **Potential case for 100 mm T90 NW**
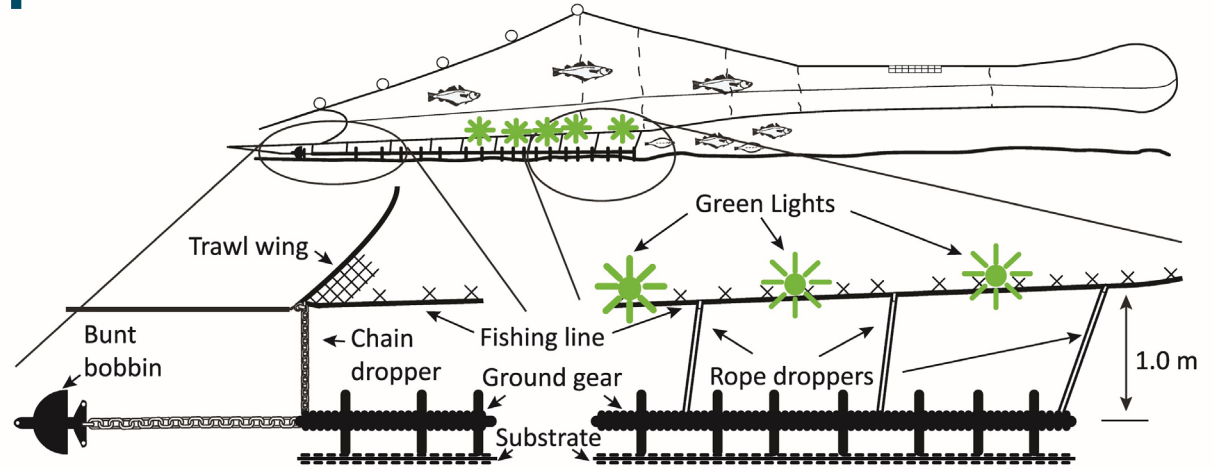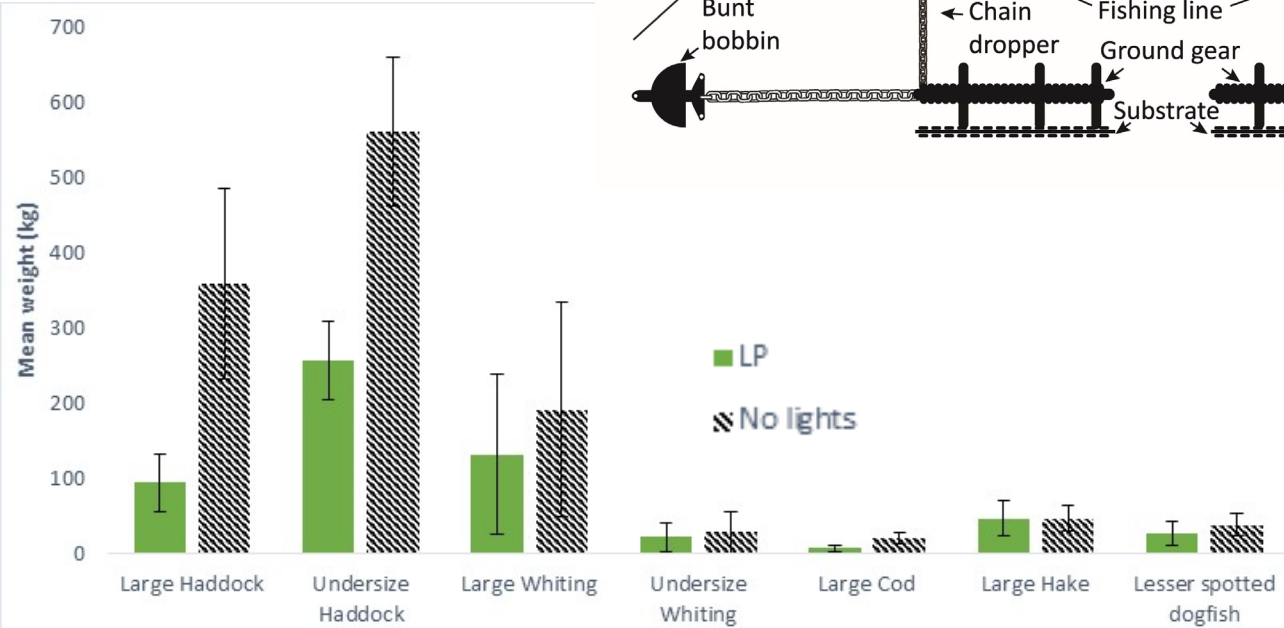
Seine net

Over quota fish – Raised-fishing line

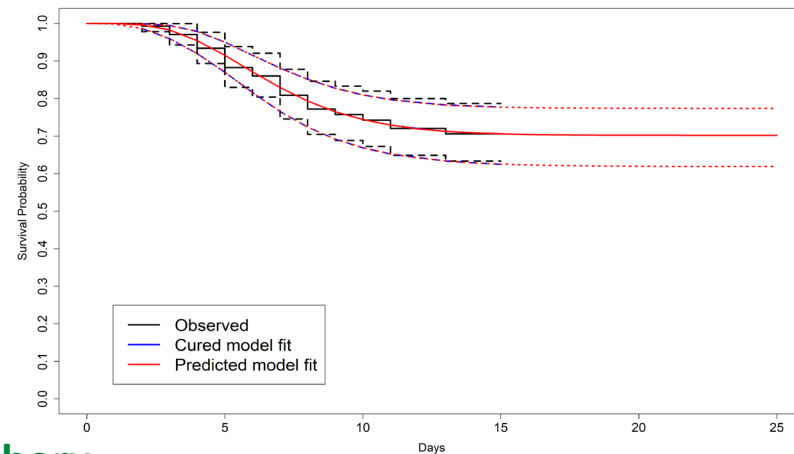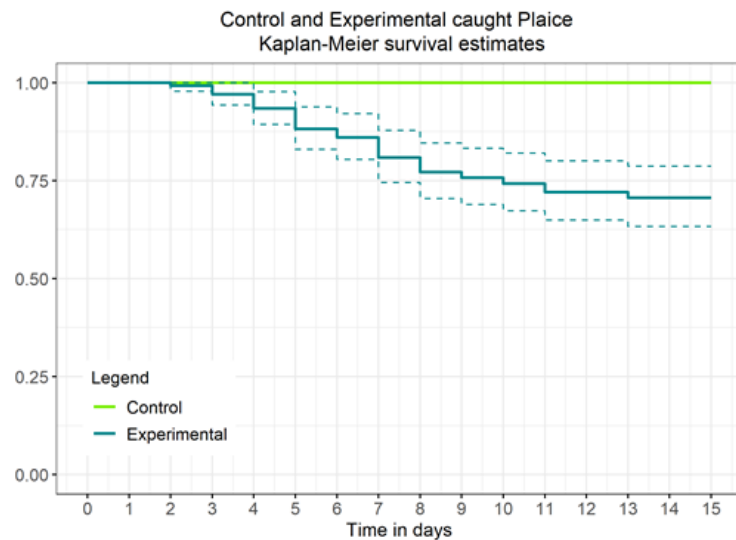- Cod, flats, skates reduced
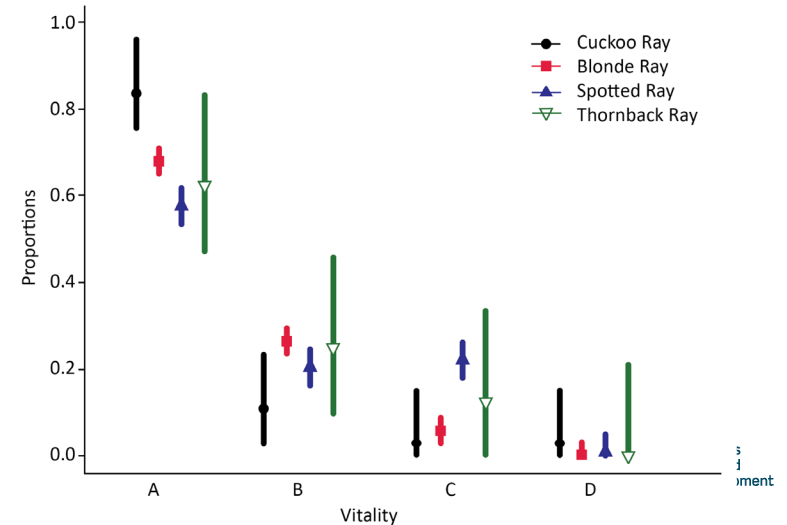- Market size whiting and haddock retained

Over quota fish

Diagram labels: Green Lights, Trawl wing, Bunt bobbin, Chain dropper, Fishing line, Ground gear, Rope droppers, Substrate, 1.0 m

Chart: Mean weight (kg) by species for LP (green) and No lights (hatched)

Y-axis: Mean weight (kg) — 0, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700

Legend: LP, No lights

X-axis categories: Large Haddock, Undersize Haddock, Large Whiting, Undersize Whiting, Large Cod, Large Hake, Lesser spotted dogfish

Over quota fish

Control and Experimental caught Plaice
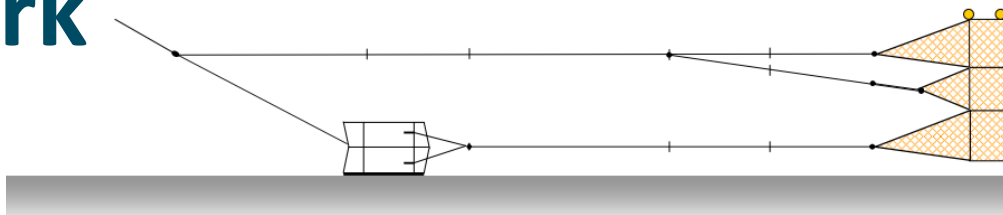Kaplan-Meier survival estimates

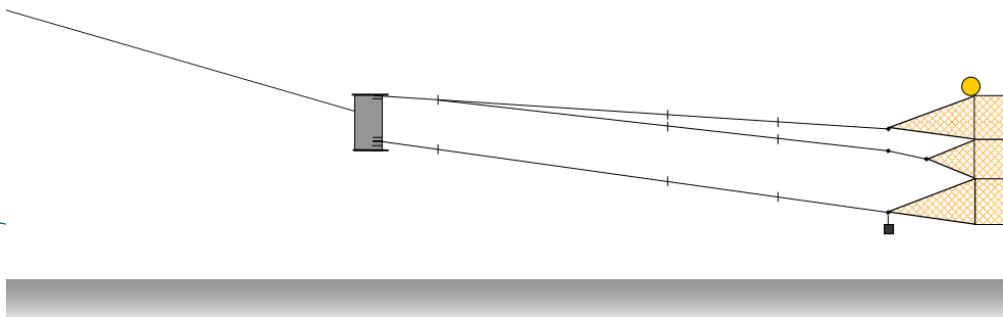**70% plaice survival in the seine net fishery**
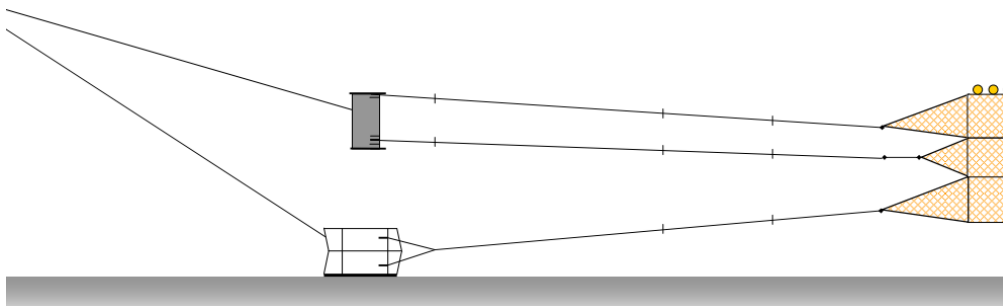
LO/Biodiversity

- **Cuckoo ray survival**

- **Exemption 1 to 3 years**

- **More work planned**

Future work

Off-bottom trawling

Thank you