



# BLACK SEA

# OTM for targeting SPRAT



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# BLK OTM fishing gear for SPRAT



## KEY POINTS:

- **No minimum mesh size required** for pelagic trawlers in the Black Sea.
- **No twine thickness requirement.**

- **But** it is a **trawl net**, so commission regulation **3440/84 is applicable.**

-What we find in the regulation 3440/84:



\*definitions of **certain devices** which **may be attached to trawls** and which **are liable to obstruct the mesh** in any part of a trawl **or to diminish the dimensions of the mesh**, and the **conditions under which they may be used.**



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-Taking into account **EFCA experience** in previous **sprat fishing gears in the Black Sea** as it showed in the following **video**:

1 x **Codend**

- Mesh size +/- 15 mm diamond. No requirement for minimum mesh size
- No codend line detected
- Length +/- 12 m to be checked
- Codend circumference +/- 20m to be checked

2 x **Strengthening bags** observed:

- 1<sup>a</sup> mesh size +/- 95 mm diamond
- 2<sup>a</sup> mesh size +/- 120 mm diamond

What we have for the strengthening bags in the reg. 3440/84???

Some **round straps (x 3)** were also observed encircling the external strengthening bag not for its external side, but in an interlaced way.

What we have for the strengthening bags in the reg. 3440/84???

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## Article 6. Strengthening bag

**DEFINITION:** A strengthening bag is a cylindrical piece of netting completely surrounding the codend of a trawl and which may be attached to the codend at intervals. It shall have at least the same dimensions (length and width) as that part of the codend to which it is attached. (Notwithstanding this point, strengthening bags smaller than the dimensions of the codend may be attached to nets having a mesh size equal to or less than **60 millimetres**.)

It is prohibited to use more than one strengthening bag except when attached to trawls having a mesh size equal to or less than 60 millimetres, for which **two** strengthening bags may be used. BLK OTM FOR SPRAT → OK

The mesh size shall be equal to at least **twice** that of the codend. If a second strengthening bag is used, its minimum mesh size shall be **120 millimetres**. BLK OTM FOR SPRAT → OK



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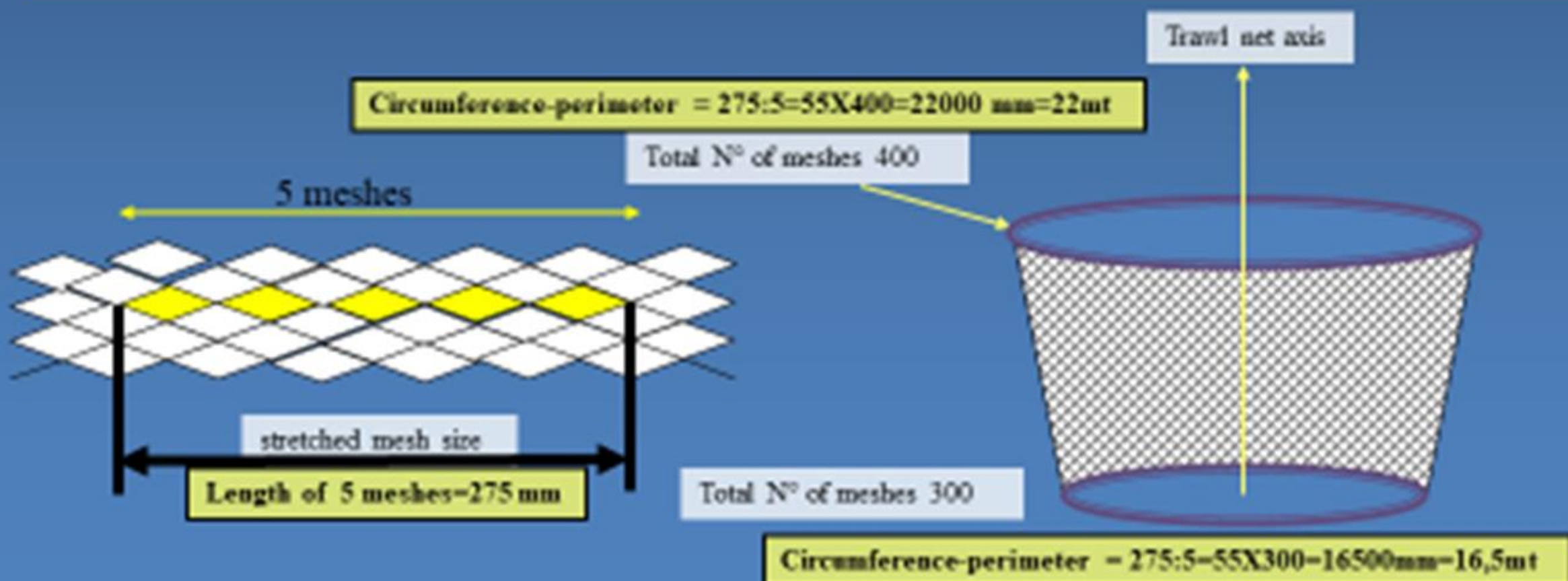
## Article 10. Round straps

1. Round straps are **ring-shaped ropes** which **encircle** the codend or the **strengthening bag** at regular intervals and which are attached to it.
2. **The length of a round strap** shall be **not less than 40 %** of the **circumference of the codend**, the circumference being measured as the product of the number of meshes in the circumference of the codend multiplied by the actual mesh size, except for the rearmost round strap called 'back strap' if it is attached not more than 2 metres from the codline meshes, measured when the meshes are stretched lengthwise.
3. The **distance separating two successive round straps** shall be **not less than 1 metre**.
4. A round strap may encircle the strengthening bags but may not encircle a top-side or bottom-side chafer.

How to calculate codend circumference?



- (j) 'circumference-perimeter' of any cross section in a diamond mesh netting of a trawl net shall be calculated as the number of meshes in that cross section multiplied by the stretched mesh size

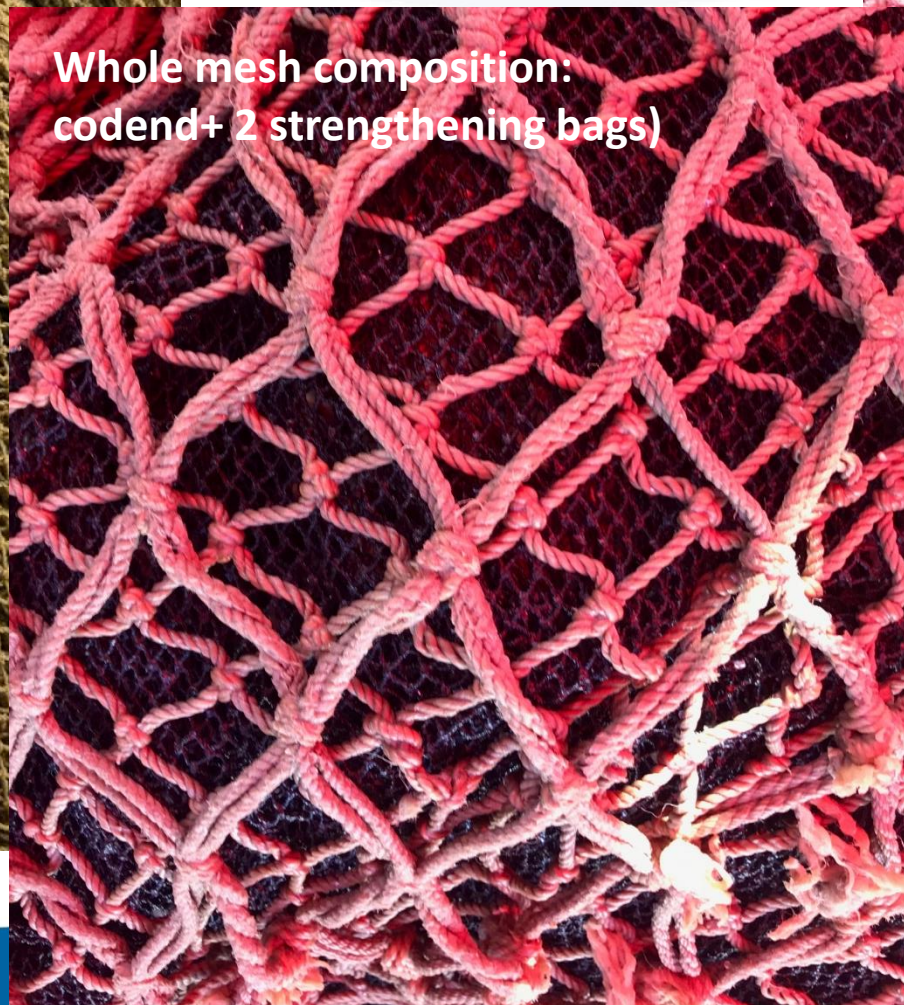


# Real examples

Codend



Whole mesh composition:  
codend+ 2 strengthening bags)



Round straps





# Conclusion

In Sprat fisheries several points needs to be checked by the inspectors, not only quantities and size.