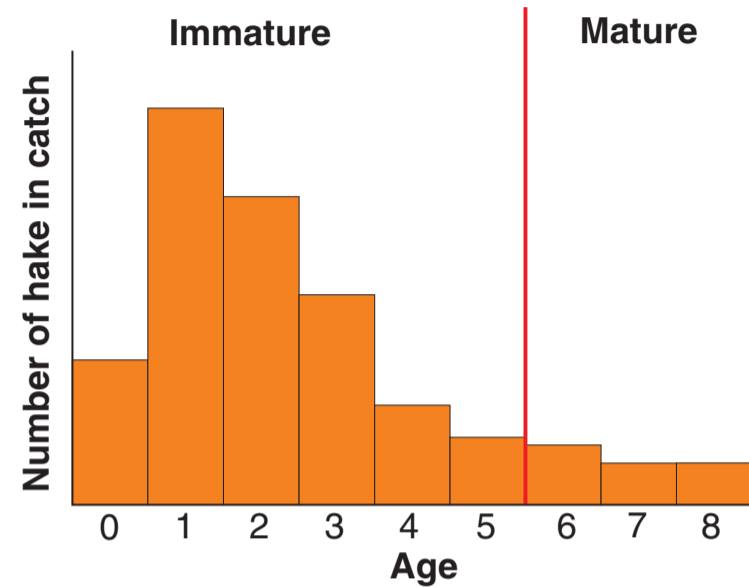
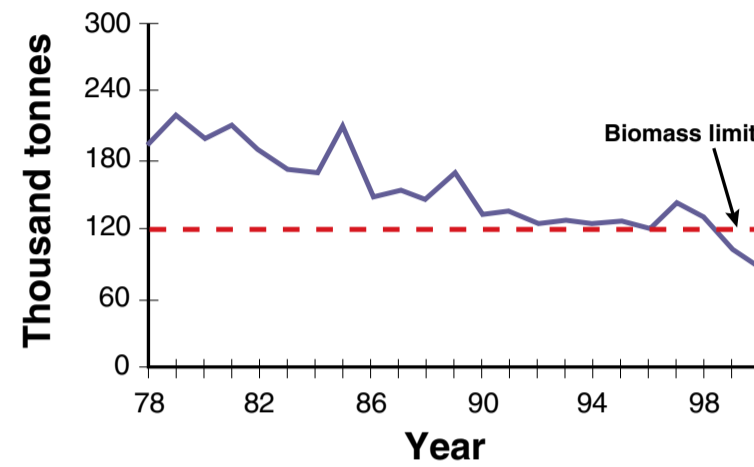


## The Problems

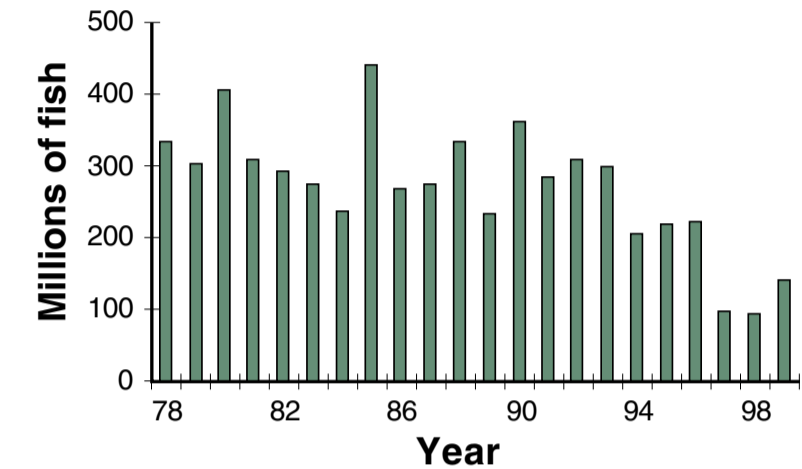
Most hake are caught before they can breed



At 83,000t in 2000, the spawning stock is well below the 120,000 needed for sustainability



The abundance of juvenile hake has been well below average for the last three years



## The Remedy

Rebuild spawning biomass by  
 - reducing fishing rate  
 - reducing the catch of immature hake

In December 2000, the EU agreed to develop a rebuilding plan to run for five years

## The Rebuilding Plan

### Step 1: Cut the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) to 'save' adults

TAC 2000 = 25,080t (Celtic Sea and to the north)

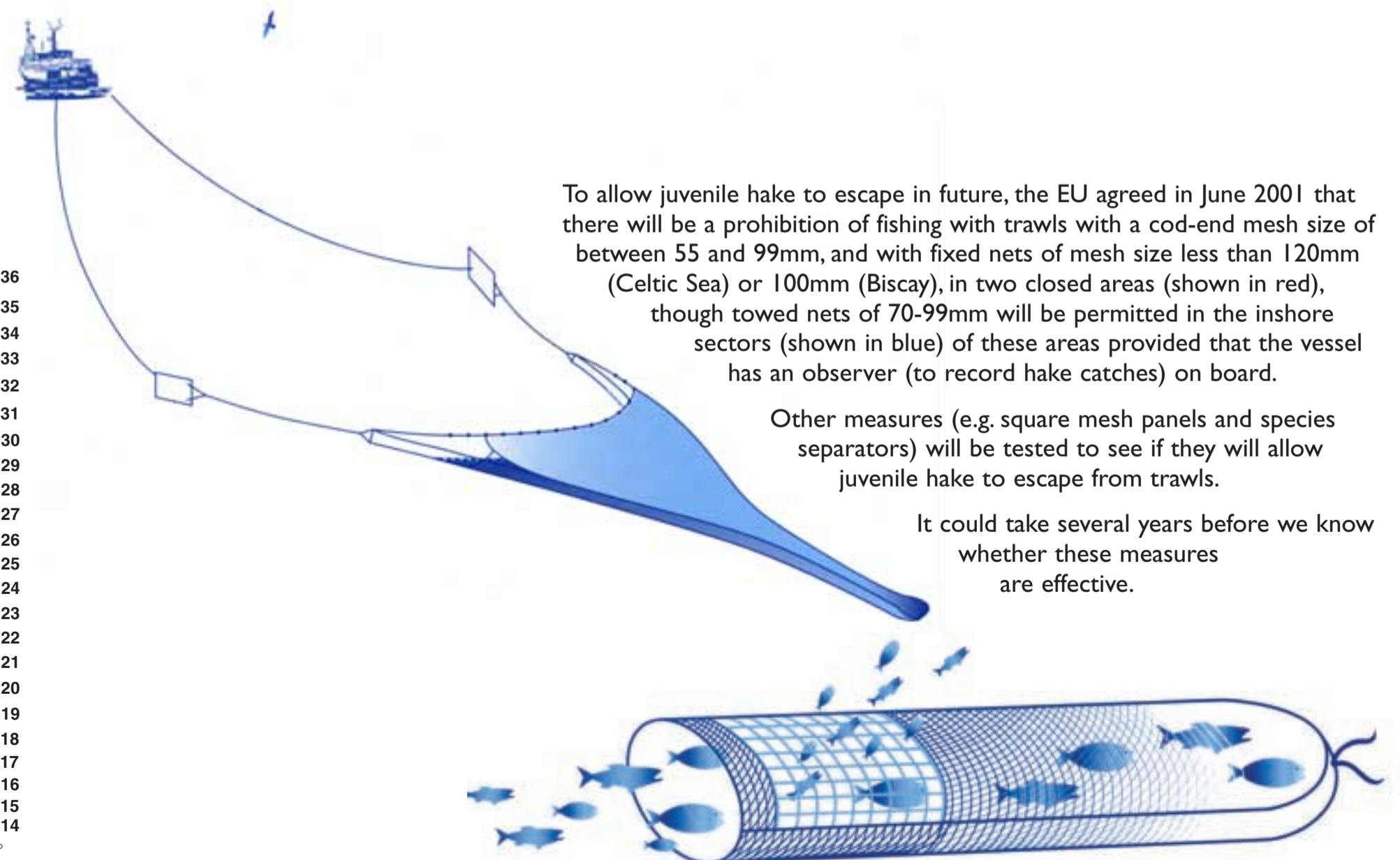
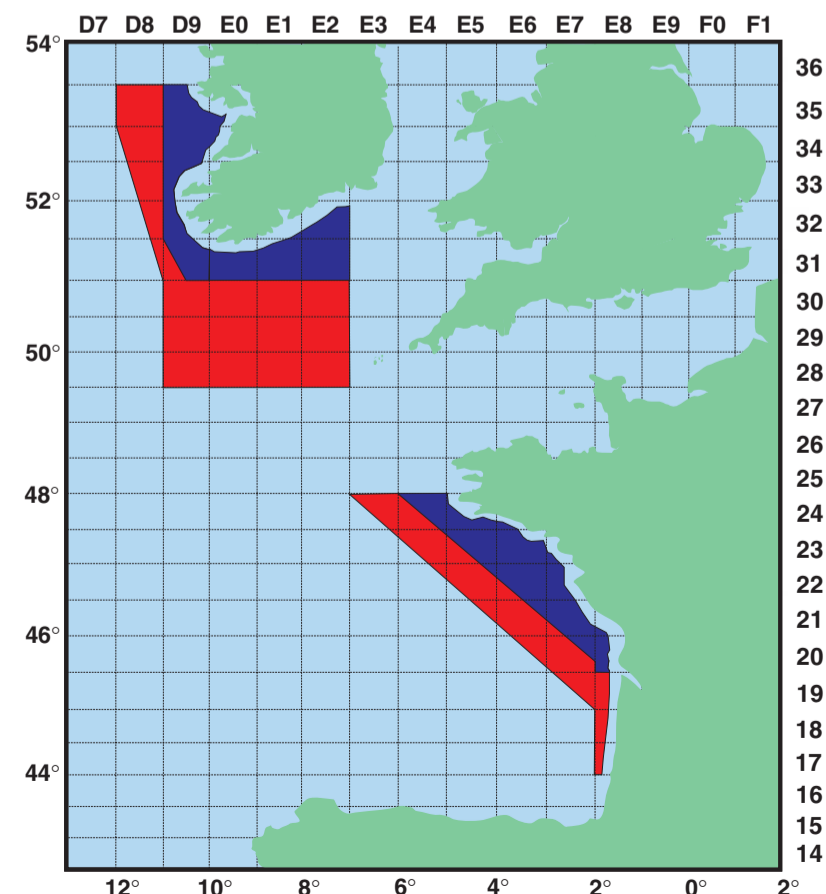
TAC 2001 = 6,570t (Celtic Sea and to the north)

This aims to cut fishing rate by 60% and it should be kept low

### Step 2: Reduce the capture of juvenile fish

Juvenile hake are caught principally in two areas: on the continental shelf in the Celtic Sea and the Bay of Biscay

The present mesh size (80mm in the Celtic Sea and 70mm in Biscay) retains too many 1-3 year old hake, which are too young to have spawned.



To allow juvenile hake to escape in future, the EU agreed in June 2001 that there will be a prohibition of fishing with trawls with a cod-end mesh size of between 55 and 99mm, and with fixed nets of mesh size less than 120mm (Celtic Sea) or 100mm (Biscay), in two closed areas (shown in red), though towed nets of 70-99mm will be permitted in the inshore sectors (shown in blue) of these areas provided that the vessel has an observer (to record hake catches) on board.

Other measures (e.g. square mesh panels and species separators) will be tested to see if they will allow juvenile hake to escape from trawls.

It could take several years before we know whether these measures are effective.