GEAR TECHNOLOGY NOTE – Gear design, construction and materials

When choosing gear the fisherman needs to take many factors into account. It is important for the success of his business that the correct choices are made. These decisions are not made lightly as the purchase of new gear can be very expensive.

Many of these decisions are made in consultation with a net manufacturer whose job it is to advise and guide the fishermen through the process. Quite often the fisherman will know as will the net maker what size and type of gear is best suited to the vessels size and horse power. Also knowledge gained from the experiences of other fisherman with similar gear and vessels is a useful guide when deciding what type of new gear to choose.

The factors to address are –

- The vessels size - Can the vessel accommodate the proposed new gear and can it be safely handled?
- The vessels engine size and bollard pull - Does the vessel have sufficient power to tow the new gear?
- The Target species - This determines the style or type of design, ie long and low or short and high etc.
- What are the legal Mesh requirements for the sea area and target species.
- The type of seabed conditions the gear is to be predominantly used over - vital when constructing the ground rig for the gear.
Materials

Once the design is agreed the fisherman needs to consider the materials used in its construction. Rather than simply accept cheapest materials it is worth considering alternatives that could in the long run actually save money in terms of fuel economy and gear repair costs. Manufacturing and supplying fishing gear is a highly competitive market with companies continually developing and making available new materials. By being aware of areas where changes such as using thinner stronger twines or reducing warp diameters and materials etc can be made vessels are able to reduce the overall drag of the gear and the fuel consumption. Quite often though it is a balance between available materials the eventual costs.

Useful links

Links to many of the major netting and twine manufacturers around the world. While this list is not comprehensive it is a starting point for those wishing to do their own research.


King Chou Marine Technology Co Ltd. Taiwan. www.king-net.com.tw

Richan Netting MFG Co Ltd. China. www.richan.cn


Gareware-Wall Ropes Ltd. India. www.garewareropes.com

Cordoaria Oliveira. Portugal. www.oliveirasa.com

Cotesi SA. Portugal. www.cotesi.com

Royal Lankhorst Euronete Group Fishing Division. Portugal. www.euronete-fishing.com

Redes Salinas. Spain. www.redesalinas.com
Le Drezen. France. www.ledrezen.com
Hampidjan Group. Iceland. www.hampidjan.is
Net Systems. USA. www.net-systems.com

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