Selectivity options – the best solution

Seafish gear technologist Mike Montgomery looks at efforts to beat discards

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The cod/98% of the flats etc into and enter the lower chamber. The area of the trawl that suffers most damage and restricts netting extra work and confusion when the gear is being repaired. To help alleviate this several years ago a separator panel set further back in the trawl was tested with good results. The front of the panel was set about 5-10 metres back from the lower chamber, with its leading panel netting tided down to meet the lower panel of the trawl, with a gap to allow the fish to enter the lower section. The panel was far enough back to be clear of the working damage/recycled panels. As with the full length separator another 200mm of netting was added to the leading edge, the panel can be removed for a horizontal separation.

In both systems of a separator panel there is the need in the trawl to meet the lower panel at some point, it is also need to most quota requirements for the particular species, while retaining species it is to allow in the other species. There are many reports available on how to choose the right type of net for each species. It is usually necessary to be tuned to suit each

COVERAGELESS TRAWL
Another select design working the same way for the seabed and puts the fish in the correct place so that they are directly above the footrope, approximately the same length, but close enough to the front of the trawl that there was still one another when the net is being towed, allowing fish to escape upwards. This gear has proved to be effective in reducing the bycatch of haddock and whiting greater than 100mm in length, and effectively separating the haddock from those species that do not rise up ahead of the trawl, but stay close to the seabed and pursue the smaller fish. Another of the advantages of this type of device is that the fish are allowed to escape without being caught by the net, therefore there should be a 100% survival rate of the fish passing above the lowered headline.

Coverless nets have been successfully used for more than 15 years by some inshore nephrops fishermen in UK to reduce their bycatch of haddock and whiting. In many situations by reducing the bulk of fish entering the trawl there is a noticeable increase in the quality and quantity (up to 35%) of nephrops caught. Coverless gear is particularly simple process for the more able skippers to alter an existing trawl to be coverless, but it is better to get a purpose built trawl that is designed to accommodate the reduced headline height. One word of caution. Due to the reduction in drag, as a consequence of the reduced headline height, and the freedom the net has to spread, due to the extended headline, the skippers often have to make other alterations to his overall gear set up to work a coverless trawl efficiently. Flexible grids and rigid grids will be covered in the next article. Further advice on fitting and operating all these devices is available from Fishery Officer on 01472 523237.

Know the ropes!

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Copyright and handling is crucial in order to get the most from special travel gear and its purchase and purchase. Practical care can lead to unforeseen aftermath, making ropes wear too quickly and reducing their useful life. The more expensive equipment and materials, and protecting expensive equipment at risk. Britain International is a global technology leader in the supply of steel wire ropes to the fishing industry, catering to customers of all shapes and sizes; from smaller scale of the art vessels (such as Victoria May, featured in a recent edition of Scottish News which uses 22mm Bridon Bridon-Doym (DFC) through to the largest serving trawler in the world, the Americas Films, which uses 44mm Bridon-Doym (DFC). Simon Dixon, Bridon’s Petching sector sales manager, shares some of his top tips for maximising the life and performance of wire rope performance.

Storage
In long periods of storage, particularly in warm environments, rotate the rope periodically to prevent migration and uneven dispersion of lubricant in the rope.

Groove profiles
Before installation, check that the grooves in the showre are the correct shape and size for the new rope. Commonly when a new rope is fitted, a difference in size from the old worn rope will be apparent, and the new rope will not fit correctly into the worn groove profile, leading to unnecessary wear and rope damage.

To prevent this, machine the grooves out before the new rope is fitted. To work out the optimum groove diameter for a wire rope, take the diameter of the rope to be installed and add 10%.

Tension
• Apply the correct amount of back tension during installation. A lack of tension in spooling or uneven winding will cause bronze layers to be forced upwards causing crushing and distortion of the rope at cross over points.
• Apply 5-10% of the maximum breaking load of the rope as back tension when installing the rope. This is to prevent the rope being pulled through the rope terminals.
• Avoid reverse ‘S’ bend, crossovers of rope, bending rope around guide rollers or contact angles of less than 45°.

Tips for specific applications
◆ Use separate systems and longer rope lengths the rope must be installed under as much tension as is safe and practical.
◆ Display larger diameter ropes in deep-water first, and apply the correct amount of back tension before first use. “Running in” the rope in this way will optimise its performance.

Fishermen make use of Hirtsachs to address discards issue

With the closure of the Seafish Flame tank in Hull several years ago has stood off, and Irish the first time in the first time the closure of the trawl. Cod, flatfish, monkfish, shellfish etc do not rise to the seabed and puts the fish in the correct place so that they are directly above the footrope, approximately the same length, but close enough to the front of the trawl that there was still one another when the net is being towed, allowing fish to escape upwards. This gear has proved to be effective in reducing the bycatch of haddock and whiting greater than 100mm in length, and effectively separating the haddock from those species that do not rise up ahead of the trawl, but stay close to the seabed and pursue the smaller fish. Another of the advantages of this type of device is that the fish are allowed to escape without being caught by the net, therefore there should be a 100% survival rate of the fish passing above the lowered headline.

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