



### 41<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF NAFO - SEPTEMBER 2019

#### **Adjustments to Multiple flap-type topside chafer (NAFO CEM Annex III.B.2)**

##### **Background**

At the 2018 CAN/EU NAFO Inspectors' Workshop, inspectors discussed the use of gear attachments, particularly the use of multiple flap-type topside chafers, which are currently permitted in the NAFO CEMs, as defined in Annex III.B.2. The discussion was largely centered around concerns that the current chafer system obstructs mesh in the codend. Inspectors have observed that obstruction is caused by the currently permitted overlapping configuration of flaps along with an increase in the size and weight of twine being used. As a result, the chafer creates multiple layers of netting overlapping the codend meshes which prevent escapement of small fish.

It was agreed that Canada would develop a proposal for consideration. The following amendments to Annex III.B of the NAFO CEMs are proposed to adjust the definition of a multiple flap-type topside chafer. These changes will decrease the obstruction of codend mesh while satisfying the primary purpose of chafers, protecting the net during operations.

##### **Proposed Amendments**

##### **Annex III.B**

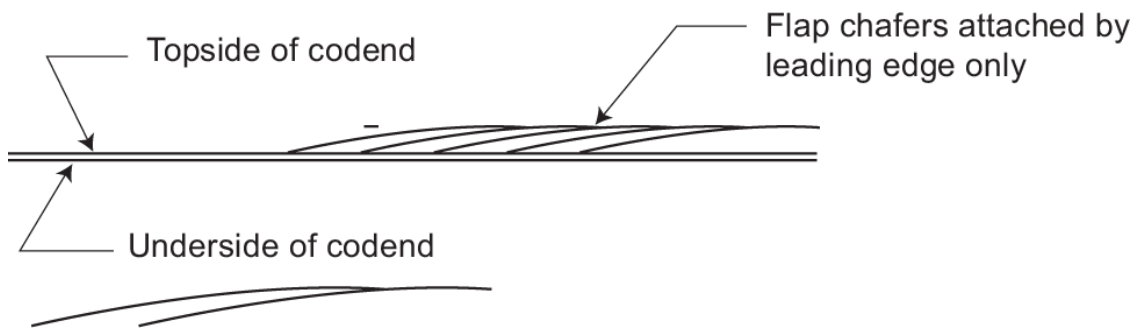
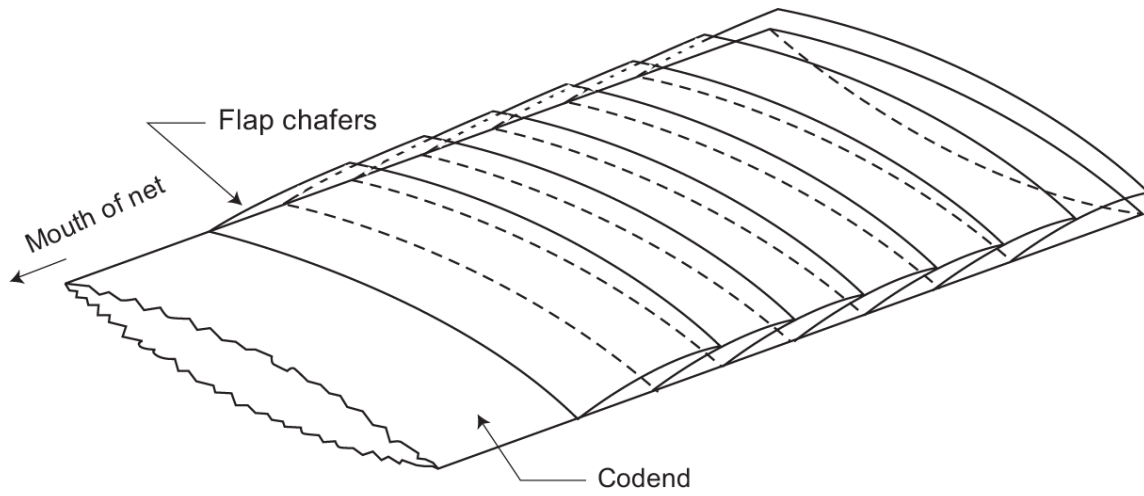
#### **2. Multiple flap-type topside chafer**

The multiple flap-type topside chafer is defined as pieces of netting having in all their parts meshes the size of which, ~~whether the pieces of netting are wet or dry,~~ is not less than that of the codend, provided that:

- (i) each piece of netting
  - (a) is fastened a minimum of one meter apart by its ~~forward~~ leading edge ~~only~~
  - ~~across the codend at right angles to its long axis;~~
  - ~~(b) does not overlap the leading edge of the next piece of netting (see illustration following this provision);~~
  - (c) is of a width of at least the width of the codend (such width being measured at right angles to the long axis of the codend at the point of attachment); and
  - ~~(d) is not more than ten meshes long; and~~
  - ~~(e) is constructed of a positively buoyant single twine material;~~ and
- (ii) the aggregate length of all the pieces of netting so attached does not exceed two- thirds of the length of the codend.



Current Images (TO BE REMOVED)



**New Images (TO BE INSERTED):**