

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

Serial No. N386

THIRD ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 1981

NAFO/FC Doc 81/IX/9

Notes on NAFO/SCS Doc 81/IX/21

Proposal of Gear Definitions to the
Working Group on Conservation and Enforcement Measures

I. It is obvious that the terms considered appropriate are Canadian terminology rather than British.

It might be advantageous, given the fact that there are certainly considerably more Canadian inspectors in the Regulatory Area than of any other nationality. We must consider however that FAO has already publications with a glossary of fishing gear terms and that it could be wise for NAFO, as an international organization, to use as much as possible the same terms.

II. It is a splendid idea to divide the trawls in "2-seam" and "4-seam" rather than refer to a quadrilateral section.

It is proposed however not to refer to rib-lines, as these are lacing lines, which are secondary to our definitions. Furthermore the regulations on mesh size speak of "lacings" not of seams nor rib-lines, not a widely known Canadian term.

The regulations refer to upperside and underside of the codend, thus the definitions must cover those expressions.

Consequently, the following text is proposed:

Part II - Gear

A. Definitions

For the purpose of these measures, the following definitions apply for various components and attachments of a trawl:

1. Topside or upperside component is (a), in a 2-seam trawl, that portion of the net, between the two seams or lacings, which is nearer to the sea surface while the trawl is in tow, and (b), in a 4-seam trawl, that portion of the net between those two seams or lacings which are nearest to the sea surface while the trawl is in tow.
2. Bottomside or underside component is (a), in a 2-seam trawl, that portion of the net, between the two seams or lacings, which is nearer to the sea-bed while the trawl is in tow, and (b), in a 4-seam trawl, that portion of the net, opposite the topside or upperside component, between those two seams or lacings which are nearest to the sea-bed while the trawl is in tow.

III. It is considered unfortunate to refer to side seams in order to define side components, especially as the so called pairs of side seams also form a pair of topside seams plus a pair of bottomside seams. The following text is suggested:

3. Side components, in a 4-seam trawl, are the two other portions of the net, between seams or lacings, while the trawl is in tow.

IV. It is recommended that the definition of square be completed to take into account that there are other trawl nets in which the part of the topside component connected to the headline or headrope is not a square, as is the case in mid-water trawls. The following text is suggested:

4. Square is that part of the topside or upperside component, without a counterpart in the

bottomside or underside component, which is connected aft to the belly and forward (a) to the beam in a beam trawl and (b) to the headrope or headline in any other trawl net.

V. As to the definition of bellies it is unfortunate that the drawing shows a belly, of a trawl with a square, that does not start from the lower wings on the bottom side, as the definition demands.

For FAO there is little difference between panel (of net) and netting. Therefore the expression panels of netting should be replaced by panels of net, as the Newfoundland experts had accepted.

The expression "whichever comes first" is not very precise as it would imply that it was possible to have aft a codend before a belly extension. The following text is suggested:

5. Bellies are panels of the bottom trawl net (a), in a trawl with a square, starting from the square on the topside or upperside component and from the lower wings or from the footrope on the bottomside or underside component and joining aft either to the belly extension or to a lengthener or to the codend; or (b), in a trawl with no square, starting from the wings and joining aft either to the belly extension or to a lengthener or to the codend.

Side bellies are panels of the 4-seam bottom trawl net side components, starting from the bunt, if there is a square, and from the bunt wings, if there is not, and joining aft either to the belly extension or to a lengthener or to the codend.

VI. It is recommended that the definition of Belly extension be accepted, eliminating however the second sentence which is an indication for the inspectors but not part of the definition. Thus:

6. Belly extension is a tapered piece of netting which may be attached to the after end of the belly so that the effective length of the belly is extended.

I wish to remark that the definitions of bellies and Belly extensions as given above, as a result of the advice given in NAFO/SCS Doc 81/IX/21, properly interpreted, results in the existence, in a 2-seam trawl, of a top belly and a bottom belly and also a top belly extension and a bottom belly extension, but it does not give their names. Should they be topside belly and bottomside belly and similarly for the extensions?

VII. It is not sensible to use the term lengthener in the previous definition and then use the term codend lengthener as the proper term. FAO uses lengthening piece.

It is very widespread to use the term net plan not as meaning the plan view of the net. Therefore we support the second expression as the Newfoundland experts had done. The following text is recommended:

7. Lengthener or lengthening piece is a piece of net, untapered at least in the plan view of the net, which may be inserted between the belly, or belly extension, if any, and the codend to increase catch capacity.

VIII. I cannot understand why the mention of panels was eliminated from this definition when it is evident that in midwater trawls the codend is connected to the panels, as there are no bellies. It is not possible to accept that the topside of the codend is the half of the perimeter of the codend. The following text is suggested:

8. Codend is the after portion of the trawl net, untapered at least on the plan view of the net, with mesh of the smallest allowable size, attached to the after end of the belly (or belly extension or lengthener, if present), or the panels in a midwater trawl, secured to form a bag by means of a codline or codend clip reaved through the after meshes, or rings attached thereto, in order to retain the catch until released on board the trawler. The topside or upperside of the codend, in a 2-seam trawl, is the half of the codend, with the width of half of the codend perimeter, which is nearer to the sea surface while the trawl is in tow, and the bottomside or underside of the codend is the opposite half.

IX. It is felt it is important to underline that no chafer may protect or reinforce the whole of the codend, and for the courts it should be important that the definitions make clear what is the purpose of this attachment.

We would thus suggest the following text:

9. Chafing gear or chafers are attachments to the trawl net designed to protect or reinforce the codend.

Two distinct types may be considered, according to the part of the codend they protect or reinforce: (a) topside chafing gear or topside chafer is an attachment designed to reinforce the topside or upperside of the codend, in a 2-seam trawl, and to the topside or upperside and sides of the codend in a 4-seam trawl; and (b) bottom chafing gear or bottom chafer is an attachment designed to reduce or prevent damage due to friction against the sea bottom or the vessel's deck, affixed only to the bottomside or underside of the codend.

X. The expression adjacent seams may not be clear unless a definition of seams or lacings sets down that these are always in the direction of the length of the net or nearly.

For the term joins FAO prefers joinings and these should also be defined as always normal or nearly normal to the longitudinal axis of the net.

The following text is suggested:

10. Panel is: (a) in the case of midwater trawls, the total area of netting, irrespective of mesh size, between each pair of adjacent seams or lacings of the trawl, forward of the codend; and consequently, in a 4-seam trawl, there will be the top or upper panel, the bottom or lower panel and two side panels;
(b) in the case of bottom trawls, each area of netting limited transversally by successive joins or joinings and longitudinally by adjacent seams or lacings.

XI. Providing an illustrative sketch showing the various trawl components is recommended and it is certainly advisable. Two points are however to note:

- a) As the Newfoundland experts suggested, these sketches should be full page drawings and should illustrate the various types of trawls, midwater and bottom, 2-seam and 4-seam, with square and without.
- b) These sketches should constitute a new Schedule to the Regulations.

XII. The only amendment we have introduced in the Regulations as consequential to the gear definitions is the following:

In Reg 3 1(a), after the words codend of a net and before the next coma, insert inclusive of any lengtheners.

It is however necessary to point out that the Newfoundland experts had recommended in the first three paragraphs of NAFO/FC Working Paper 81/III/1 that further work on selectivity problems, associated with the Polish remarks on strengthening ropes, splitting straps and codend floats, be carried out by NAFO and that meanwhile some prohibitions should be added to the Regulations.

XIII. We also would like to underline that the question of measuring the chafers mesh size is not yet satisfactorily resolved. In the first place we are not sure that a chafer is a part of the net other than the codend, and in the second place we still have no gauge in the regulations to measure meshes of twice the regulation ordinary size. Attention must be called to the fact that nowhere in the Regulations are the gauges described in Schedule V established as the right gauges to measure the chafer mesh size, as Reg II B2 does not apply to chafers.

The present regulations in Schedule V do not accept a thickness of 2 mm. In fact $\frac{3}{32}'' = 2.38$ mm and is therefore nearer 2.4 mm than 2.3. We also feel that details of handles or cut outs and lightening holes do not have to be part of the Regulations.

Proposed Text

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3. Side components, in a 4-seam trawl, are the two other portions of the net, between seams or lacings, while the trawl is in tow.
4. Square is that part of the topside or upperside component, without a counterpart in the bottomside or underside component, which is connected aft to the belly and forward (a) to the beam in a beam trawl and (b) to the headrope or headline in any other trawl net.
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