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General Localities of Unsuitable Fishing Bottom
in Some Areas Adjacent to Eastern Canada

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At the January 1971 mid-term meeting of the ICNAF Working Group on Coordinated Groundfish Surveys, the countries interested in the surveys were asked, among other things, to submit information on areas characterized by rough bottom unsuitable for fishing.

Figures 1 and 2 give a general idea of the location of rough bottom conditions as recorded from fishing sets of the *A.T. Cameron* using the 41-5 standard lined otter trawl for the periods when the net was of manilla (Fig. 1) and coullene (Fig. 2) composition. A description of the net is given by Pinhorn (1971) (document this meeting).

The number of unsuccessful sets in each 30 min latitude by 60 min longitude unit area, because damage was sufficient to affect the catch, was plotted as a percent of the total number of sets in the unit area.

Most of the Grand Bank can be fished without encountering gear damage; however the north and northwest parts of the bank may not have been as extensively fished as some of the other parts and this area is generally considered by fishermen to have localities of rough bottom.

Obviously many unit areas in which very few sets were made may also contain areas of unsuitable bottom, but on a broad basis these maps should give a general idea where trouble might be encountered and should be taken into consideration when designating survey areas.

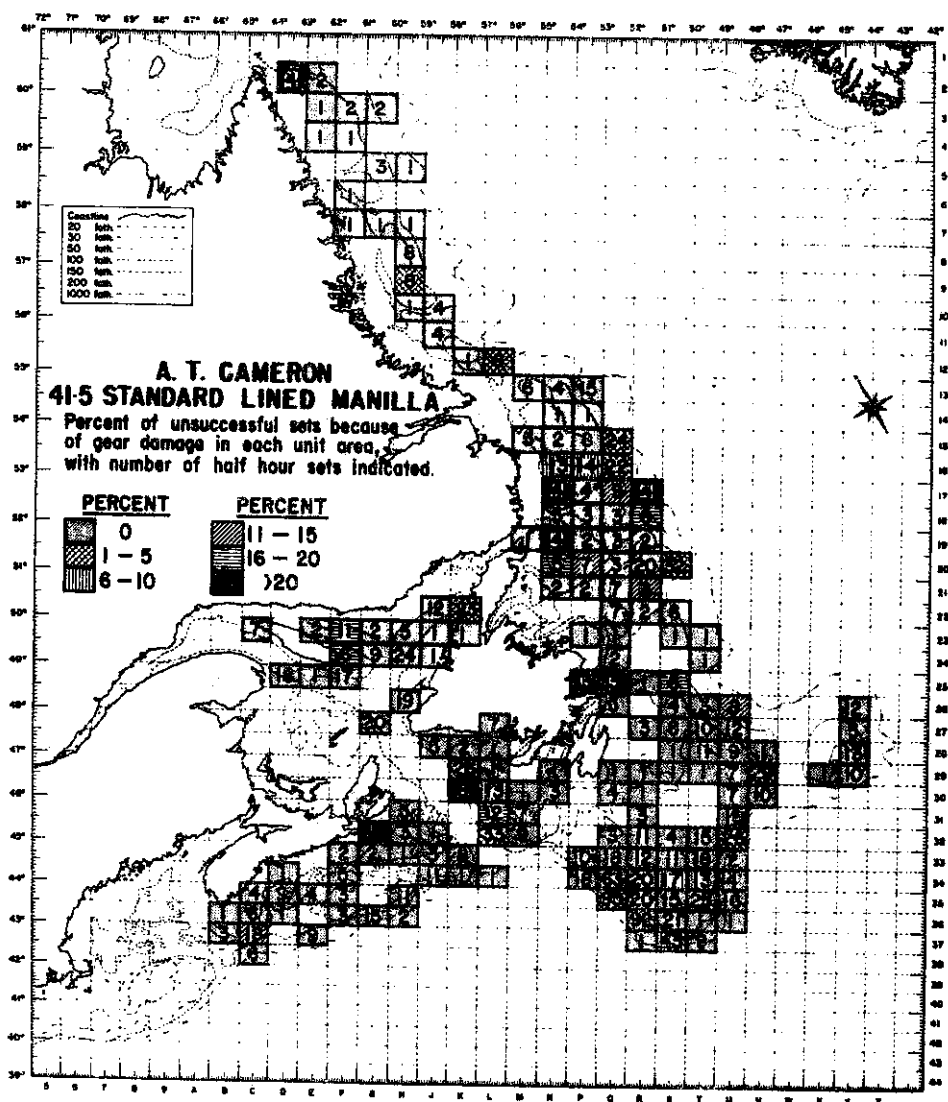


Fig. 1. Percent of unsuccessful sets because of gear damage in each 30 min latitude by 60 min longitude unit area for the 41-5 standard lined manilla trawl.

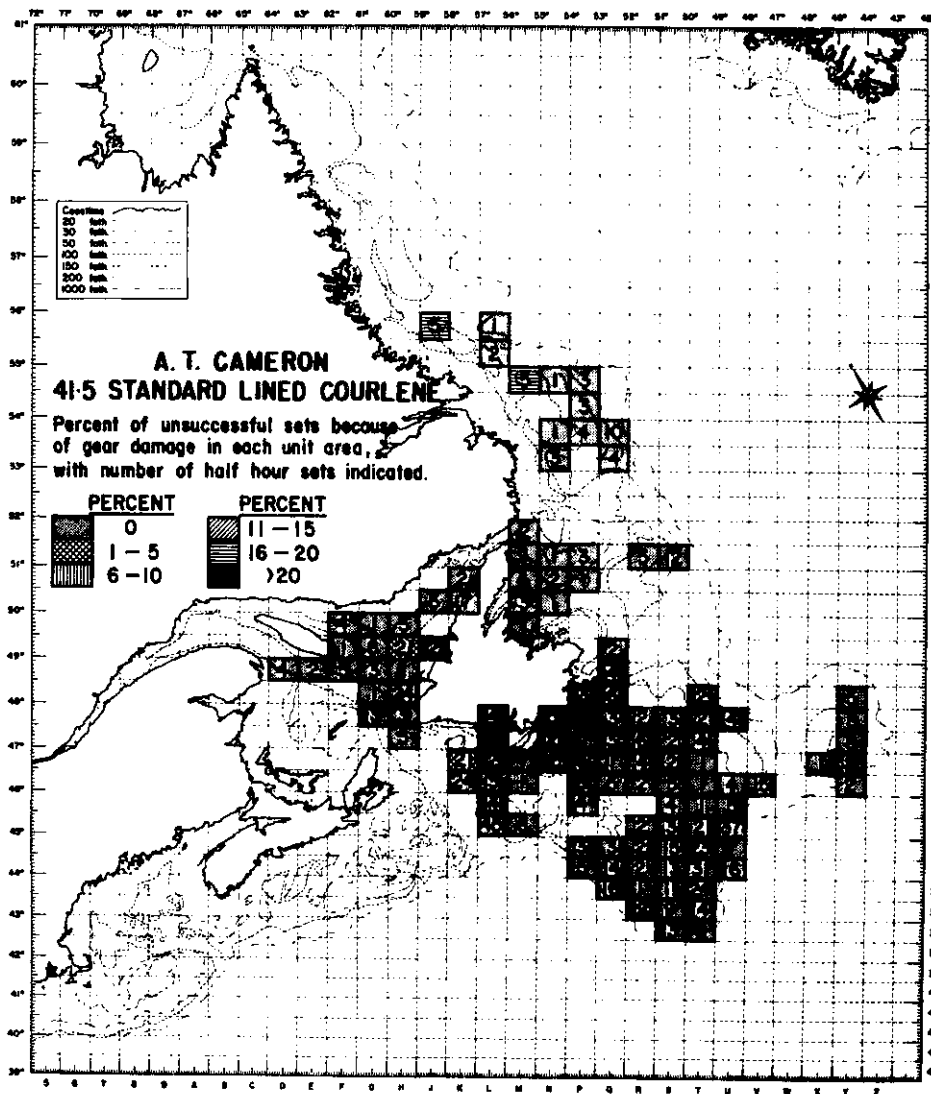


Fig. 2. Percent of unsuccessful sets because of gear damage in each 30 min latitude by 60 min longitude unit area for the 41-5 standard lined courlene trawl.