

Northwest Atlantic



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Report by the Scientific Council to the Fisheries Commission
on its Review of Gear Definitions

In accordance with NAFO/FC Doc. 81/IV/3 (Revised), the Standing Committee on Research Coordination (STACREC) reviewed the gear definitions given in FC Working Paper 80/IX/3 and agreed that the definitions listed below, supplemented by an illustration showing the various trawl components, would be appropriate. The Scientific Council approved these definitions which are also given in SCS Doc. 81/VI/20, Appendix II, Annex 1.

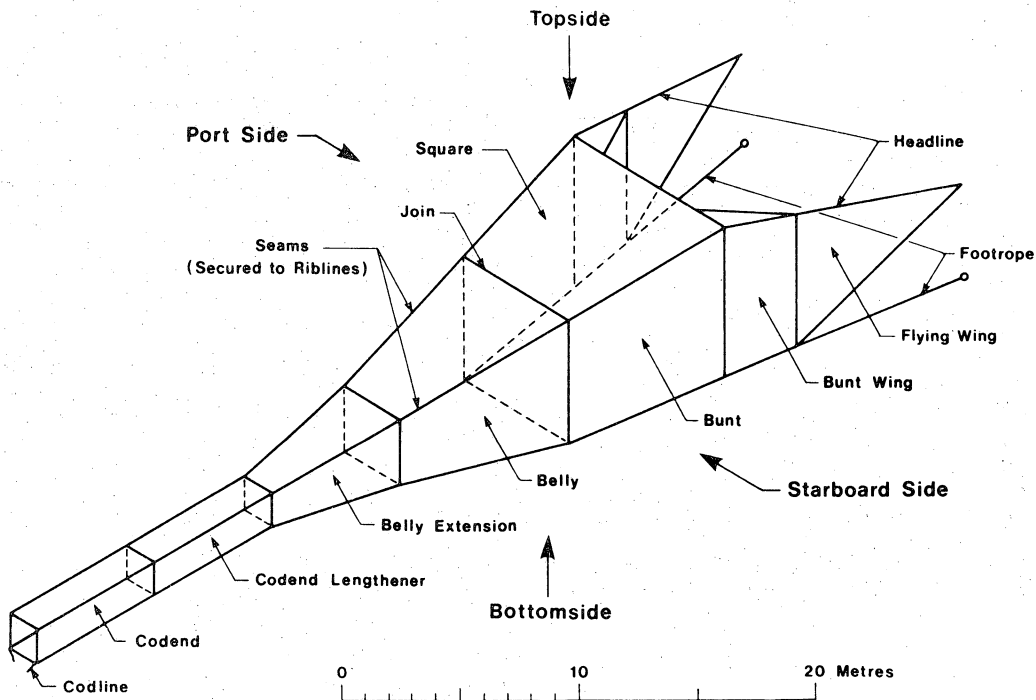
DEFINITIONS FOR THE VARIOUS COMPONENTS OF A TRAWL

The following definitions, supplemented by a labelled illustration, are considered to be appropriate for the various components of a trawl:

1. Topside component is (a) in a 2-seam trawl that portion of the net between the two seams or rib-lines and nearest 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 rib-lines which are nearest to the sea surface while the trawl is in tow.
2. Bottomside component is (a) in a 2-seam trawl that portion of the net between the two seams and nearest the sea bed while the trawl is in tow, and (b) in a 4-seam trawl that portion of the net opposite the topside component and between those two seams which are nearest the sea bed while the trawl is in tow.
3. Side components, in a 4-seam trawl, are those two other portions between the respective pairs of side seams while the trawl is in tow.
4. Square is that part of the topside component which is connected aft to the belly and forward (a) to the beam in a beam trawl and (b) to the headline or headrope in any other trawl net.
5. Bellies are panels of trawl netting (a) in a trawl with a square, starting from the square on the topside and from the lower wings on the bottom side and extending aft to the belly extension, lengthener or codend whichever comes first; or (b) in a trawl with no square, starting from the wings and extending aft to the belly extension, lengthener or codend whichever comes first.
6. Belly extension is a tapered piece of netting sometimes attached to the after end of the belly so that the effective length of the belly is extended. It is usually characterized by smaller mesh and heavier twine (sometimes double yarn) than in the bellies.
7. Codend lengthener is netting, untapered at least in the net plan, sometimes inserted between the belly or belly extension and the codend to increase catch capacity. It is usually characterized by larger mesh and lighter twine (sometimes single yarn) than in the codend but equal or heavier twine and equal or smaller mesh than in the belly or belly extension.
8. Codend is the after portion of the trawl net, untapered at least in the net plan, with mesh usually of the smallest allowable size, attached to the after end of the bellies (or belly extension or lengthener, if present), secured to form a bag by means of a cod-line or codend clip reaved through the after or terminal meshes (or rings attached thereto) to retain the catch until released on board the trawler.

The topside of the codend, in a 2-seam trawl, is that half of the perimeter of the codend which is nearest the sea surface, and the bottomside of the codend is that half of the perimeter which is nearest the sea bed while the trawl is in tow.

9. Chafing gear or chafers are attachments to the trawl net designed to protect the codend: (a) topside chafing gear or topside chafer is an attachment affixed to the topside of the codend in a 2-seam trawl or to the topside and sides of the codend in a 4-seam trawl, and (b) bottom chafing gear or bottom chafer is an attachment to the bottomside only of the codend.
10. Panel, in the case of midwater trawls, refers to the total area of netting, irrespective of mesh size, between each pair of adjacent seams of the trawl forward of the codend (e.g. top panel, bottom panel, side panel). The term panel, as applied to bottom trawls, usually refers to each discrete piece of netting tailored for the trawl, i.e. each section of netting between successive transverse joins and between adjacent longitudinal seams.



Atlantic IIA Standard Groundfish Survey Trawl (4 - seam)