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Size Selectivity and Trawling Efficiency of Two Sampling Trawls Used in Resource Surveys of Yellowtail Flounder on Grand Bank, NAFO Div. 3LNO

by

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Abstract

Bottom trawl sampling gear(s) are used to conduct annual groundfish surveys and the choice of size and design of a sampling trawl is generally based upon the objectives of the survey. In the fall of 1995, the objective of annual spring and fall groundfish surveys changed from estimation of recruited groundfish stock abundance indices to include pre-recruit indices. This necessitated consolidating the three sampling gears used in the surveys into one new standard trawl. Size selectivity and trawl efficiency of two shrimp trawls used in the surveys of the Grand Bank yellowtail flounder, *Pleuronectes ferruginea*, were analyzed from a series of comparative fishing tows. Little differences were found in the size selectivity of both trawls. Differences in trawl efficiency were related to differences in tow duration (15 min. vs. 30 min.).

Introduction

Annual stratified-random fall recruitment surveys of the Grand Bank, NAFO Div. 3LNO by the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Centre (NAFC), in St. John's, began in 1985. The objectives of these surveys were to provide information on trends in population size, distribution, mortality and recruitment as well as biological data on size, age, growth, feeding for yellowtail flounder, American plaice, *Hippoglossoides platessoides*, and in later years, Atlantic cod, *Gadus morhua*. The sampling gear, a Yankee 41 shrimp trawl was chosen, after several fishing gear trials comparing groundgear design, mesh size, riggings, towing speed and tow duration, to conduct these surveys..

In the fall of 1995, a new survey trawl, the Campelen 1800 shrimp trawl was adopted as the "new standard trawl" which replace both the Yankee trawl and the "old standard trawl", Engel 145 otter trawl (McCallum and Walsh 1996; Brodie 1996). This switch in sampling trawls occurred after comparative fishing gear trials between the Campelen and Yankee trawls in 1992 and the Campelen and Engel trawls in 1994 (Walsh and McCallum, unpubl. data). In the fall of 1996, multi-species comparative fishing trials were carried out between the *FRV Wilfred Templeman* using the "old standard" recruitment survey trawl, a Yankee 41 shrimp trawl, and her sister ship the *FRV Alfred Needler* using the "new standard" survey trawl, a Campelen 1800 shrimp trawl. These trials were carried out between the Engel survey trawl and Campelen trawl (Warren 1996;Warren et al. 1997). The objective of the 1996 comparative fishing trials was to derived conversion factors to re-calculate the 1986-94 bottom trawl indices from Yankee trawl units to Campelen trawl units.

This paper will examine the size selectivity and trawling efficiency of both small mesh sampling trawls for yellowtail flounder. Conversion of Yankee trawl indices, derived for the 1986-94 yellowtail flounder recruitment data into Campelen trawl units will be discussed.

Methods

The comparative fishing trials were carried out while the *Templeman* was conducting the annual fall groundfish survey using the Campelen survey trawl. Proceeding the start of the comparative trials and after any major tear-ups, both trawls were extensively measured to ensure they were rigged correctly using NAFC Fishing Gear Checklist to (see McCallum and Walsh 1995). Both ships fished at the same time and direction at each station, keeping within 0.5 nm of each other as described in Warren (1996) and Warren et al. (1997). The Campelen trawl was fished with the 'new standard time' of 15 minutes using a towing speed of 3.0 knots. The Yankee trawl was fished with the 'old standard time' of 30 minutes using a towing speed of 2.5 knots. These survey trawls are described in detail in Figs. 1-6 and Table 1. The performance of both fishing gears was monitored using SCANMAR acoustic trawl instrumentation which measured doorspread wingspread, trawl opening, bottom contact and trawl depth.

A total of 18 successful paired tows, in which one or the other trawl caught yellowtail flounder, were completed before the *FRV Templeman* developed mechanical problems and the trials were terminated. Twelve paired sets in Div 3N and 6 sets in Div. 30 were completed in a depth range of 42 to 209 m.

Results

Trawl geometry

Although there are differences in riggings of both trawls and towing speeds (Table 1) both trawls showed little differences in wing spread: Campelen 12.7 m vs. 13.8 m for the Yankee. (Table 2). Wingspread is a parameter in the swept area model to calculate biomass and abundance of yellowtail flounder on the Grand Bank. Trawl opening is larger in the Campelen than in the Yankee because of the extra side panels inserted in the Campelen, which gives it a larger opening (see Figs. 2 and 5; Table 2). Although the Campelen polyvalent trawl doors are heavier than the Yankee rectangular wooden doors and the towing speed used for the Campelen is faster than the Yankee, the higher doorspread in the Yankee trawl is due mainly to the long (117.7 m vs. 46.1 m) sweeps used (Tables 1 and 2).

Catches

Catches of yellowtail flounder were in sufficient numbers to examine differences in size selectivity and trawling efficiency between the Campelen and Yankee shrimp trawls (see Table 3). Catches were standardized to appropriate towing distances of 1.3 nm for the Yankee trawl and 0.8 nm for the Campelen trawl. The ratio of total catch of yellowtail flounder by the Campelen (8335 fish) to the total catch of the Yankee trawl (16258 fish) is 0.51 which is close to the ratio of tow distances, i.e. 0.60.

For the comparative analysis of length frequencies, zero catches in one of the pair tows resulted in elimination of that pair according to the method of Warren (1996) and Warren et al. (1997) (see Table 3). Three out of 4 of these zero sets were in depths greater than 100 m, outside the normal depth distribution of the majority of the stock (Walsh et al. 1998). Elimination of these small catches had no effect on the catch ratio. Length frequencies of the remaining 14 pair sets are found in Tables 4 and 5 and the ratios of catch by length are given in Table 6. A comparison of the overall length frequency for both trawls shows that there is very little difference in the size selectivity of both trawls (Fig. 7). A ratio (Campelen/Yankee) of the trawl catches per length group is plotted in Figure 7. With the exception of small yellowtail flounder in the size range of 8-11 cm where the Yankee selectivity is higher and large fish greater than 43 cm in which sample sizes were low, the ratio hovers around a mean of 0.57 for fish in the 12-42 cm size range (Table3).

Discussion

A target value of 200 paired sets was felt to be necessary to derive conversion factors for both trawls (Warren, pers.com.). In this comparative fishing experiment only 18 pairs were achieved. In deriving the conversion factors for yellowtail flounder from the 1996 comparison of the selectivity of an Engel 145 otter trawl and the Campelen 1800 shrimp trawl only 180 sets were completed (Warren et al. 1997). In that analysis, 38% of the Campelen and 37% of the Engel catches by each trawl had zero catches. In addition,

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20% of the Campelen and 26 % of the Engel trawl sets had catches where the number of fish exceeded 40 yellowtail flounder. Although the number of paired sets was higher in the Warren et al. (1997) analysis, the overall catches of yellowtail flounder in were low, 5,118 fish for the Engel trawl and 6,787 fish in the Campelen trawl (Warren et al. 1997). In this present study, the number of paired sets are low but the catches of yellowtail flounder were much higher, i.e. 8,335 fish in the Campelen trawl (4/18 tows had zero catch) and 16,258 fish in the Yankee trawl (1 out 14 tows had zero catch). Many tows had catches in excess of 500 yellowtail flounder (see Table 3).

The similarity in the size selectivity and efficiency of both sampling trawls is evident. The overall differences in total catches are due to the difference in tow duration between the two trawls. Adjustment of the Campelen trawl catches by the ratio of tow duration (0.60) would bring the totals closer together. Similarly, an average adjustment factor of 0.57 could be applied to a major proportion of the Campelen length frequency to minimize the differences in catch-at-length. Size selectivity of sampling trawls are affected by many factors, chief among them is the size and design of the footgear which can influence escapement of flatfish underneath the gear (Walsh 1992; 1996; Godø and Walsh 1992; Munro et al 1997; Dahm 1997). Although the Campelen is rigged with rockhopper gear and the Yankee is rigged with rubber roller disk gear there is only a 3.9 cm difference in height of the footgear (see Table 1). In addition, the use of footgear disks made of rubber weighs heavier in water than hollow steel balls of similar size and ensures better ground contact thereby minimizing escapement of flatfish under both survey gears.

These similarities in size selectivity of Campelen and Yankee trawl catches of yellowtail flounder are also evident in another set of comparative experiments between both trawls, which were conducted in 1992 (Walsh and McCallum 1992: unpubl. data) using the *FRV Wilfred Templeman* (Fig. 9). The objective of this series of comparative fishing trials was to compare size and species selectivity of both trawls when towing speed, tow duration, and trawl doors were standardized. The resulting catches were based upon 14 paired tows on the Southeast Shoal using the alternate haul method over a 48-hour period. Other differences in methodology consisted of towing both trawls for 30 minutes, using the same towing speed of 3.0 knots and the same (Campelen) polyvalent trawl doors.

Conclusions

Although the target number of paired tows had not been reached because of mechanical problems with one of the two vessels, the catches of yellowtail flounder in this analysis are very large. The length frequency of both trawl catches covers the size range of the yellowtail flounder population on the Grand Bank, NAFO Divs. 3LNO. Converting the 1985-94 yellowtail flounder recruitment time series from Yankee trawl units into Campelen trawl units may be achieved by multiplying the former index by the mean ratio of 0.57, as a first approach, to scale the index down to the Campelen units. Further analyses are suggested.

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Parameter	Campelen 1800	Yankee 41		
	shrimp trawl	shrimp trawl		
Riggings	i i i	ş		
Doors	4.3m2/1400kg	4.5m2/590kg		
Sweeps (m)	6.1	99.4		
Bridles (m)	40	18.3		
Bouyancy (kg)	226.5	129		
Headline (m)	29.5	24.4		
Fishing line (m)	19.5	31.8		
Footgear				
Length (m)	35.6	31.7		
Material	102 rubber disks	6 rubber disks		
	(rockhopper)	& 8 rubber bunts		
Weight Air (kg)	501.3	470.3		
Size (dia./cm)	35	30/11.5		
Mach size (mm)		:		
Mesh size (mm) Wings/square	80/60	38		
bellies	60/44	38 38		
Codend	44	38		
Liner .	12.7	12.7		
Material	Polyethylene	Polyethylene		
Iviaterial	roiyetiiyiene	Folyethyletie		
Geometry				
Doorspread (m)	45 to 55	45 to 55		
Wing spread (m_	15 to 17	10 to 15		
Opening (m)	4 to 5	2 to 3		
Towing speed (knots)	3.0k	2.5k		
Abundance Model				
Tow duration (min)	15	30		
Tow distance (nm)	0.75	1.25		
Average wingspread (m)	18.23	14.52		
Swept area (m2)	0.00727	0.00941		

Table 1. Trawl design, rigging and geometry of Campelen 1800 and Yankee 41 shrimp trawls.

Table 2Comparison of average trawl geometry during 14 comparative towsas measured by Scanmar trawl acoustic instrumentation.

Parameter	Yankee Sh	nrimp trawl	Campelen shrimp trawl				
Wingspread (m)	<u>Mean</u> 13.8	<u>CV (%)</u> 14	<u>Mean</u> 12.7	<u>CV(5)</u> 17			
Doorspread (m) Opening (m)	60 3.3	1 point 25	38.9 5.7	9 7			

Table 3. Comparison of trawl catches in number of yellowtail flounder by gear from 1996 comparative fishing between Campelen and Yankee shrimp trawls.

set no,	Campelen	Yankee
37	553	656
38	、 27	776
40	330	676
50	0	5
51	300	167
56	1960	1934
57	1112	2131
58	1943	3731
59	989	3092
61	966	2758
62	0	3 ⁻
63	0	0
85	1	6
86	5	34
87	46	15
88	94	166
89	9	80
93	0	28
Total	8335	16258

Table 4.	Catches of yellowtail flounder by Yankee trawl during 1996 comparative fishing with Campelen.
	Sets 50,62,63, and 93 deleted because of zero catches.

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ole 4. Ca Se	tches of y ts 50,62,6	ellowtall f 3,and 93	deleted b	ecause o	f zero cat	ches.	comparau	ve namng	with Cam	pelen.					· ·
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11	10	4	0	6	14	<i>.</i> 0	0	15	6	0	0	0	0	õ	
12	6	10	0	10	9	5	0	23	12	0	0	0	0	0	
13 14	15 10	12 12	0	14 17	18 32	0 21	0	62 39	6 19	0 0	0 0	0	0	0 0	
15	25	14	2	16	32	21	38	77	25	0	0	0	Ō	Ō	
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. 19	26	12	8	6	113	112	38	248	56	0	Ō	0	Ó	0	
20	32	34	8	6	225	155	263	240	130	0	0	0	- 0	0	
21	46 36	40 50	18	2 4	122 212	256 160	-300 363	286 286	222 216	0 1	0	0	. 0 . 0	0 0	
23	49	28	14	4	104	176	425	371	352	o	ō	0	2	ō	
24	41	74	22	3	81	229	238	263	346	0	0	0	. 0	0	
25 26	35 24	58 76	20 16	3 1	104 113	139 181	325 275	255 162	272 321	0 0	1	0 0	1	0 0	
· 27	26	36	26	o O	122	197	250	108	185	õ	1	ō	õ	õ	
28	19	22	26	0	104	85	275	147	130	0	0	0	0	0	
29 30	23 20	24 42	28 34	0 0	68 59	53 32	275 175	62 39	117 68	0 0	0	0	1 .	0 0	
31	14	24	36	Õ	54	37	88	0	43	ō	õ	õ	1	õ	
. 32	16	20	48 38	1	32	37	75	0	62	0	0	1	5	0	
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35	14	16	52	1	18	16	38	15	12	1	2	0	12	4	
36 37	11 17	18 14	52 38	0 2	5	0	50	0	12	0	2	4	17	4	· .
37	11	14	42	0	18 14	16 0	25 0	15 0	12 6	0	5 4	2 4	10 20	10 9	
39	5	10	18	0	23	0	0	23	6	2	1	0	17	5	
40 41	6 5	4 2	10 8	0 3	5 0	11 . 5	25 0	0 15	6 0	0	1 2	1	13 7	7	
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5/	656	776	676	167	1934	2131	0 3731	3092	2758	0 6	0 34	0 15	0 166 .	0 80	

 Table 5. Catches of yellowtail flounder by Campelen trawl during 1996 comparative fishing with Yankee shrimp trawl.

 Sets
 50,62,63 and 93 deleted because of zero catches.

LENGTH	37	38	40	51	56	57	58	59	61	85	86	87	88	89
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	Ö		0	0	0	0	0	0
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5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	ó
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
. 7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Q	Q ·	0	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	., 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 .	0
10	2	2	4	7	20	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	. 0	0
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22	20	1	11	12 2	173	132	147	93	42	0	0	0	1	0
23	29	ò	2	5	167 167	121	207	97	84	0	0	0	2	0
24	38	1	. 7	5	93	121 100	173 87	115	77	0	0	0	0	0
25	51	2	7	. 0	120	89		111	98	0	0	0	0	1
26	22	2	8	0		-	147	100	81	0	0	0	1	Q
27	22	1.	7		100	92	113	39	88	0	0	0	0	0
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29	27	o	12	0	120	36	140	47	70	0	0	0	0	0
30	29	2	8 9	0	100	36	120	21	56	0	0	0	0	0
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31	-22	ò	19	0	53	0	107	0	21	0	0	1	3	. 0
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							1040	303	300	,	5	46	94	9

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Table 6. I	enath distribu	itions of vel	lowtail flounder from	n 1996 compa	ative	1	· .
fishing trial	s (14 pairs) w	ith Campele	en and Yankee shri	np trawls.		1	
Sets 50.62	2 63 and 93 de	eleted beca	use of zero catches	······································			·
						1	
			Ratio				
LENGTH	Campelen	Yankee	Campelen/Yankee			1	
8			0			1	
9						· .	
10	1	44	1.11				
11		55				1	
12		75	0.75			-	
13		127	0.46			-	
13		150	0.65			1	
15		250	0.58				
<u>16</u>		230	0.56			-	
17	168	294	0.50			-	
18	249	387	0.64			•	
19			0.84		·		
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26	1						
27	567	951	0.60				
. 28	1						•
29		*****	0.57				
30		471	0.50				
31	223		0.75				
32		297	0.40				
33			0.54				
34		128	0.72]	
35		201	0.43]	
36		175					
37			0.52				
38	85	122	0.70]	
39	91	110	0.83				
40	80	89	0.90			1	
41	39	56	0.70			1.	
42	36	52	0.69			1	
43	17	52	0.33				
44	10	41	0.24				
45		16			·	1	
46		28	0.57				
47	4	17	0.24				
48		10	0.24			4	•
49		5	0.30	<u> </u>	ļ	1	
50			3.00			·	
Total	8335		5.00			-	
iviai	0030	10221			l	J	

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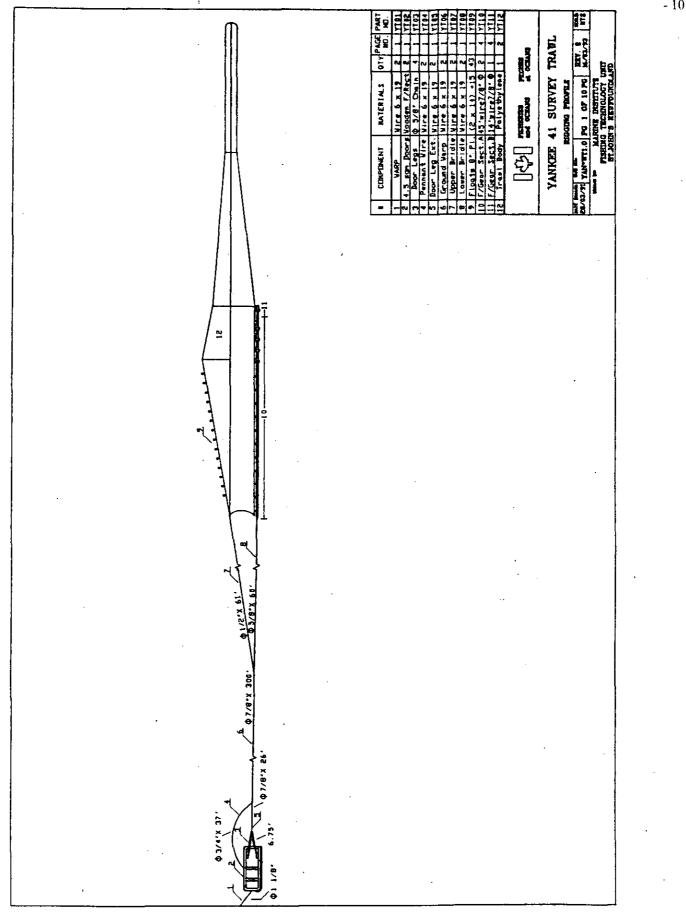


Fig. 1 Rigging diagram of the Yankee 41 shrimp trawl

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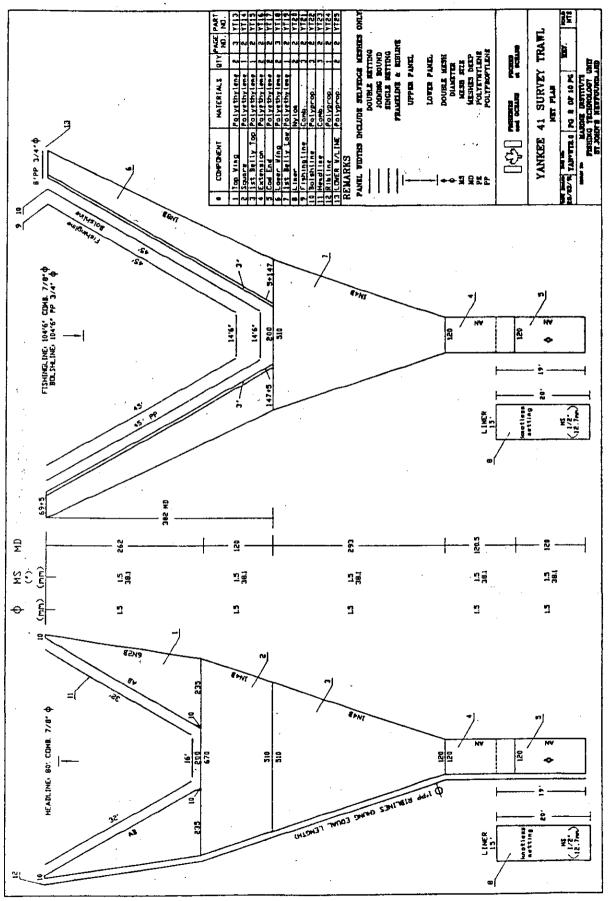
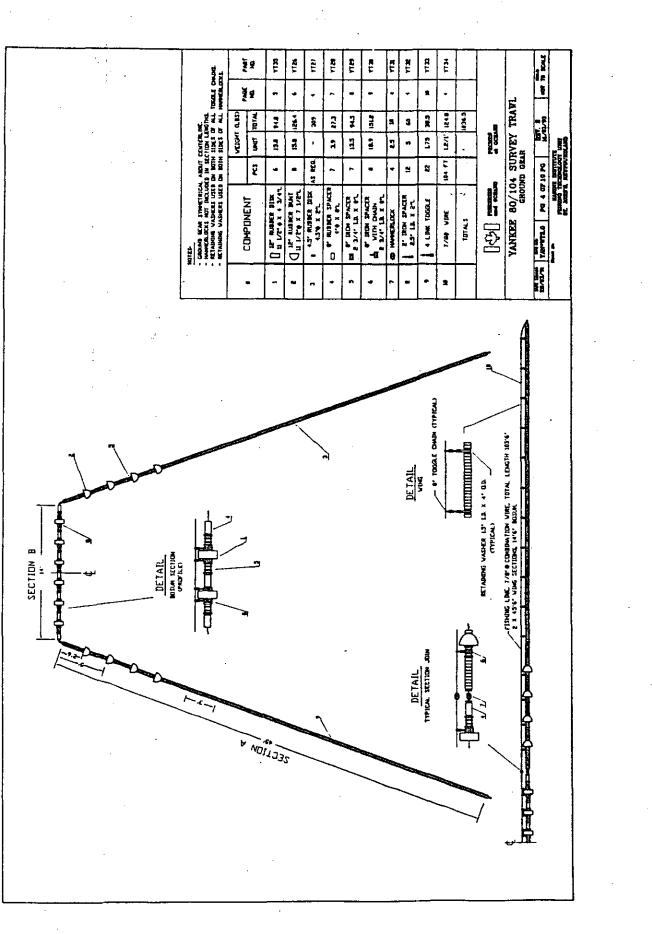


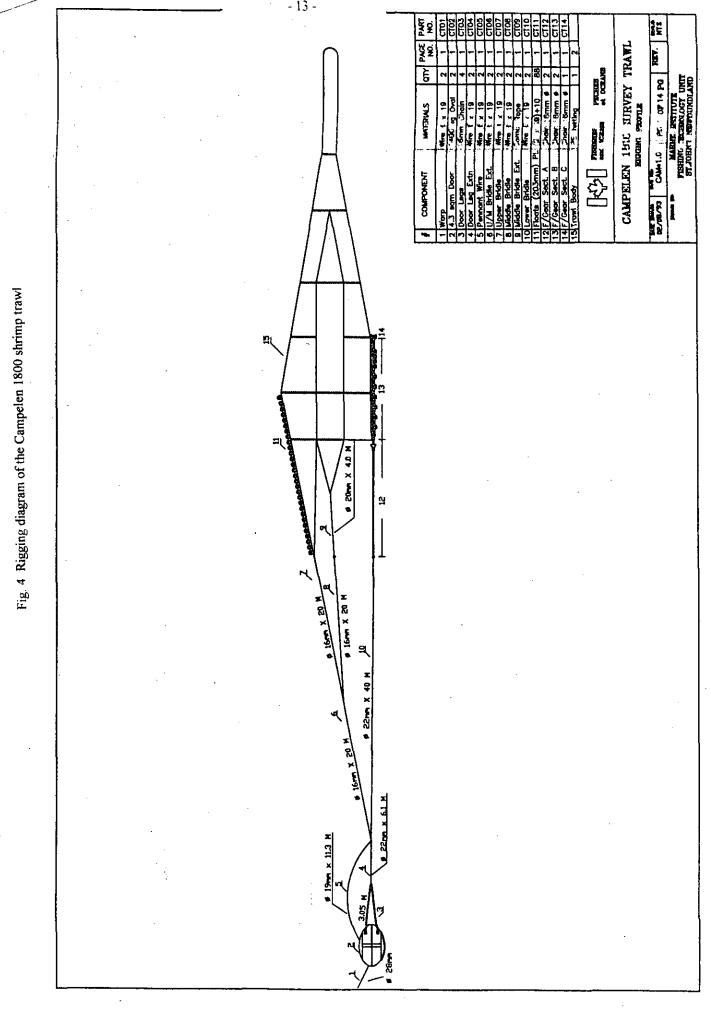
Fig. 2 Trawl plan of the Yankee 41 shrinp trawl

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- 12 -

Fig 3 Rigging of the footgear of the Yankee 41 shrimp trawl



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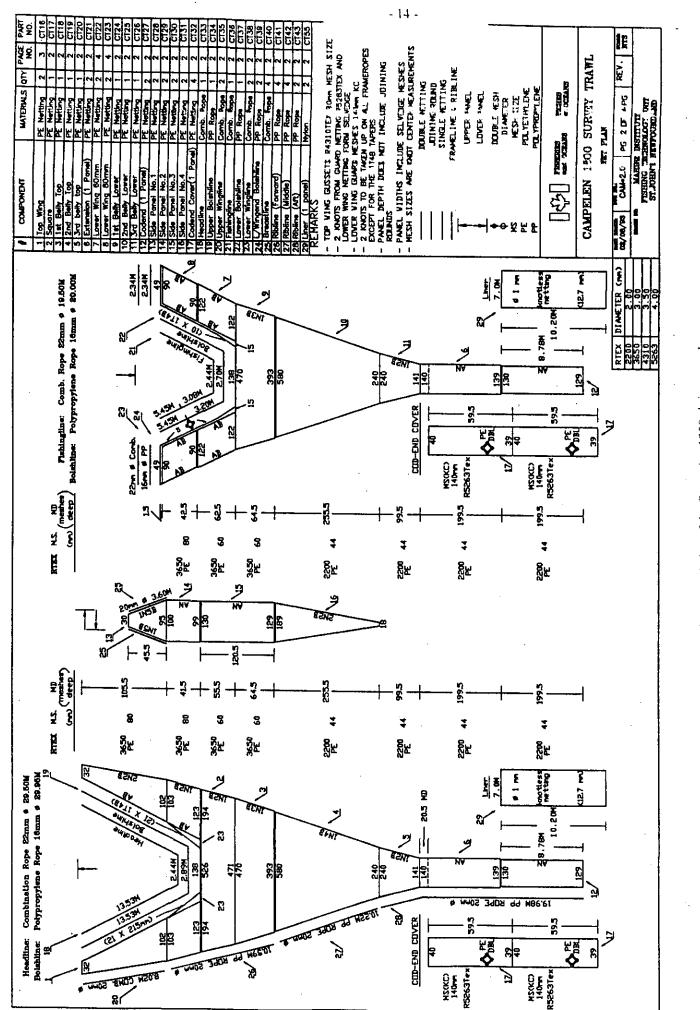


Fig. 5 Trawl plan of the Campelen 1800 shrimp trawl

PART NG CT12 CT48 C144 C145 CT46 C113 C149 CT50 E1 CT31 CTS2 - 15 2 P Ë - LENGTHS FLOR SECTION B & C ME MEALMED FROM CENTRE MANNERLICK TO CENTRE HAMBERLOCK. - LENGTH IF SECTION A 15 MEAJLED FROM CENTRE HAMBERLOCK - TO FOOD FF CAMINE (SEE DETAIL A). 8 6 10 12 5 = 14 110' 861 1×13 1X5.80m 1×13 1×14 1×2 1×6 0 0 0 - GROIND GEAR IS SYMMETRICAL ABOUT CENTERLINE. Line Net Zof6.75n 2012 e X <u>8410</u> S IS E X X 0 o CAMPELEN 1800 SURVEY TRANL GROUND GRAN NUMBERS 12 20.4 24 1 0 2 04 MARINE INSTITUTE FISHING TRCHNOLOGY (DAT ST.JOHN'S NEWFOUNDLAND ž ţ ä 0 -64 ÷ ŵ TOTAL 14:98 EXHE 5.80 13.51 FERENCES and OCEANS ŝ 0 e ð Q N, ø VEIGHT (KGS) (IN SEAVATER) 74.30 206.31 14.62 56.36 28.76 19.14 **2**% Э. Э 9. 2 8.6 TUTAL VEIGHT 501.03 N
 OC
 5/8*
 (16m)
 4.96/M

 Mid Link Dhain
 4.96/M
 4.96/M
 4.96/M

 B
 5/8*
 (16m)
 1.0
 4.96/M

 B
 Hammer
 10
 1.0
 4.76
 4.76

 B
 Detter Pleate
 1.10
 4.76
 4.76
 4.76
 CNIA3.0 DRAVING NOTES 5.29 N.96.4 4.96A 0.35 15.5* (393mm) 8.58 Bobbin Chain 8.58 0.43 4.98 0,42 Fig 6 Rigging of the footgear of the Campelen 1800 shrimp traw! Rubber Spacer 5/8' (16m) 4 Mid Link Chain S/8° (16m) Mid Link Chain 14*(356mm) Rubber Bunt Bobin 14" Roddhopper Sets of 3 Disk 8" (200m) Iron Spacer 6° (152m) Vasher COMPONENT 2/08/20 0 P 8 0 l I ស 10 e 4 n 8 ¢ Ξ . φ Section A SEE DETAIL * A * SECTION A FLYING VING CONNECTION COMPONENT ASSEMBLY Section C DETAIL A DETAIL B 3.9 H I SECTION B 2 Section H 2 No. Contraction TIVLA 265\$10U Bab 335 8 B. OO H Section C 6

Yellowtail Flounder

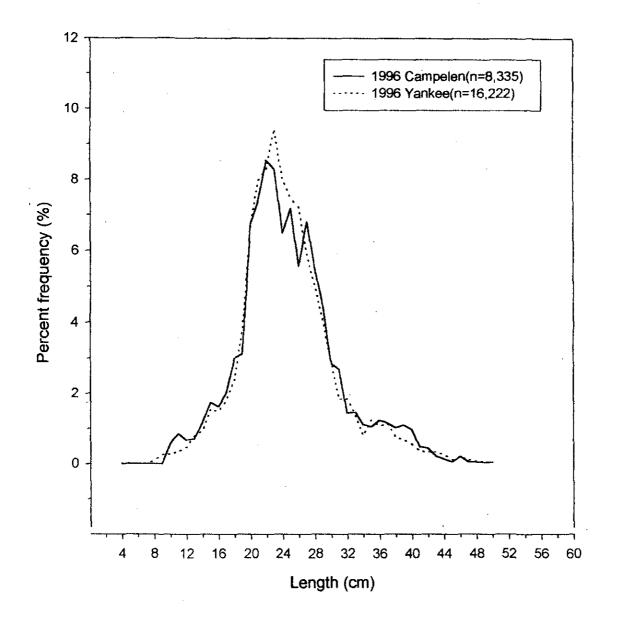


Fig.⁷ Comparison of the length frequency of yellowtail flounder caught in the 1996 comparative fishing trials (14 paired tows) between Campelen 1800 shrimp trawl and a Yankee 41 shrimp trawl.

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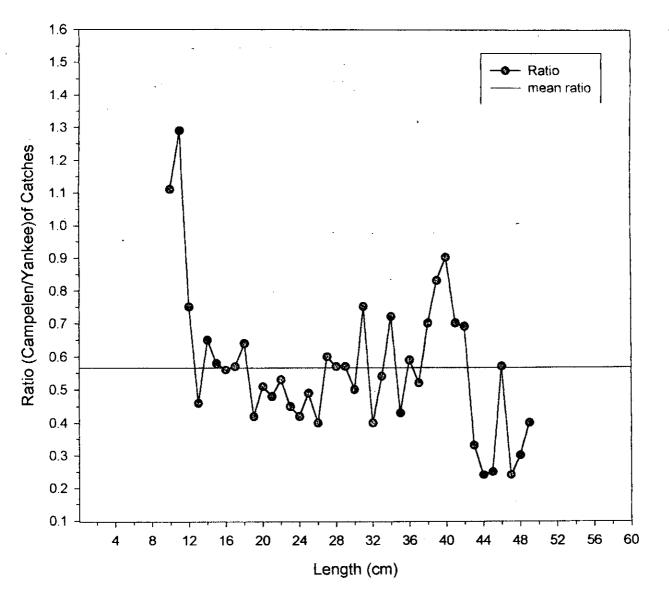


Fig. 8 Ratios of catches per length group of yellowtail flounder from 1996 14 paired tows between the Campelen and the Yankee shrimp trawls.

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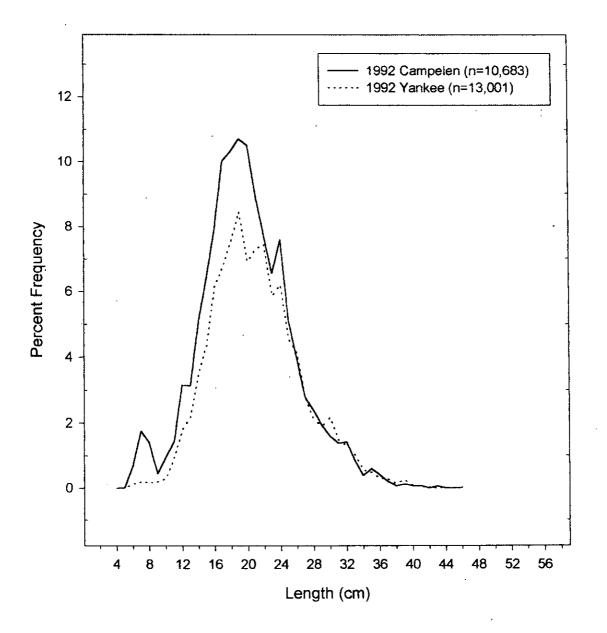


Fig.⁹ Comparison of the length frequency of yellowtail flounder caught in the 1992 comparative fishing trials (14 alternate paired tows) between Campelen 1800 shrimp trawl and a Yankee 41 shrimp trawl.