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Note on midwater trawls

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The midwater trawls used in the deep-sea fishery of the Federal Republic of Germany are only suitable for pelagic trawling. The trawl nets in question are four panel nets with full lower wings. In contrast to bottom trawls, they are made of rather thin netting yarns. Due to these constructional characteristics, they cannot be used for bottom trawling because they would be damaged by even the slightest ruggedness of the seabed. Furthermore, the midwater trawls are always used in combination with so-called Süberkrüb doors which are also unsuitable for bottom trawling. For this reason, it is even impossible to employ the gear for the purpose of a semi-pelagic fishery.

The only midwater trawl which could be applied for semi-pelagic fishing is the so-called "Tauwerk - Netz" (rope trawl). This type of trawl, however, has not yet been used in the commercial fishery. Because of the great difficulties in the handling of the net, it is an open question whether this trawl type will ever be adopted by the fishermen.

A midwater trawl can easily be identified by an inspector by means of the following constructional characteristics:

1. The trawl consists of four panels.
2. The trawl is made of thin netting yarns.
3. The trawl has full lower wings.
4. The trawl is used in combination with Sükerkrüb doors.