

D E C K S
A W A S H

A FISHERIES EXTENSION PROGRAMME



MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SERVICE

Programme #2

December, 1964

The subject for our second "Decks Awash" programme for this season was "Gillnetting with a new type Inshore Gillnet Boat and Drum Hauler".

In the early part of last year the Newfoundland Provincial Government, through its Fisheries Development Authority, co-operated with the Industrial Development Service of the federal Department of Fisheries in conducting a number of experimental fishery projects designed to test new boats and new methods of fishing in inshore waters. Fishery firms and businessmen associated with the fishing industry also agreed to assist with some of these projects by providing the necessary boats and personnel. Several of these projects got underway during the past season and some of them will likely continue on into next year's fishing season.

One of the new methods on which a considerable amount of experimental work was carried out was a new type of inshore gillnet boat and drum hauler.

This project got underway at Newtown, Bonavista Bay in August with the assistance of Mr. Boyd Way, a businessman of that community. During the late summer and autumn Mr. Way had two of these boats in operation crewed by six fishermen, three men for each boat.

DESCRIPTION OF BOAT

The boats used in this project were built at Marystown shipyards during the early part of 1964 and are of the same basic design as other longliners now being operated in various parts of the Province. They are 45 feet overall length with a beam of 12 feet. The main engine is installed just aft of the crews' quarters in the forward section of the boat, with the fish hold situated just about amid-ships. The aft section of the boat differs from the basic longliner design in that the last ten feet has a well or dropped deck. This is the area where the fish are removed from the nets as they are being hauled. There is some question at the present time as to whether the "well" is necessary or desirable.

The picture on the cover of this newsletter shows the boat engaged in an actual fishing operation in the vicinity of the Wadham Islands.

DRUM HAULER & ROLLERS

The drum hauler in Mr. Way's boat is installed on the edge of the raised deck just forward of the "well". The drum is constructed of aluminum and is approximately six feet wide and can take up to forty gillnets at one time. It is powered by a hydraulic unit driven by the main engine of the boat and can be operated either from the wheel house or by a control lever on the hydraulic power unit attached to the drum. The drum can be operated at any speed backwards or forwards simply by a push of the control lever.

Three rollers are attached to the stern of the boat. Two in a vertical or upright position and one in a horizontal or level position. The roller arrangement shown on the cover has

now been modified. The upright rollers have been set further apart and the level roller has been lengthened to about six feet. This allows the nets to be spread wider on the roller as they are being hauled. According to reports received this is a much better arrangement.

EXPERIMENTAL

It must be realized that this method of using gillnets is still in its experimental stages as far as Newfoundland cod fishing is concerned. It has, of course, been proved a complete success in British Columbia for gillnetting salmon, but some adjustments may be necessary for hauling bottom set cod gillnets. Such adjustments, while perhaps necessary for cod gillnetting, will not be major ones. The fishermen who use this boat and drum during the late summer and early fall feel that it is an easy and efficient method of fishing large numbers of gillnets, and other people are already showing interest in this type of operation.

HOW NETS ARE SET AND HAULED

The nets are hauled with the boat stern to the wind. This in itself may seem strange to some fishermen. One would think that the strain of such a large boat would be more than the gear could stand, and would result in a large amount of damage. This, however, is not the case. Your moderator was actually on board Mr. Way's boat when nets were being hauled in a 25 mile-per-hour wind. There was a good deal of strain, of course, but there was no damage to the gear with the exception of a few broken floats. This occurred before a sufficient number of nets were wound on the drum to form a cushion for the floats. In this case the total strain of the boat was taken by the drum and nets.

The nets come in over the level roller guided by the upright ones. The fish are shaken out by the fishermen standing in the well and the nets are wound on the drum with floats on one side and boat ropes on the other. To reset the nets the drum is simply

reversed and the nets run out over the rollers in the same manner as they were hauled in. The boat can be operated close to full speed during the setting operation.

On the particular fishing trip referred to above eighteen quintals of fish were taken from twenty gillnets.

On our television programme covering this method of fishing we showed a ten minute film of the actual operation. Our guest, Mr. Rupert Price of the Industrial Development Service of the federal Department of Fisheries, explained in some detail the operating of the drum and rollers.

Later on in our series we are going to demonstrate how this boat and gear can be adapted to another method of fishing which is called snap-gear longlining. If this works satisfactorily the general feeling is that this type boat and gear can be used as an economic fishing unit.

Since the commencement of this experiment several fishermen

and fishing firms have improvised their own drum rollers and tell us that they are working out very well.

Again we would like to emphasize that we will welcome and acknowledge all comments or suggestions sent to us by fishermen.

Why not take time out to give us your views?

Our address is:-

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