2010 Groundfish Special Management Program - Cheatsheet

In fishing year 2010 there will be several Special Management Programs (SMP) open to groundfishing. These consist of the US/CAN Area (which includes the Eastern, Western, and Eastern Area Haddock Special Access Program (SAP)), the Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock SAP, the Closed Area II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP, and the Regular BDAS program.

Observers should recognize that certain trawl gear types are approved when fishing in Special Management Programs, and must confirm with the captain (at times and in certain SMP’s other non-trawl gear is also allowed).

Observers may see the Haddock Separator Trawl or Ruhle Trawl used in Eastern US/CAN area (opens Aug 1 for trawl gear), Eastern Area Haddock SAP (opens Aug 1), Regular BDAS program (opens May 1), or the Closed Area II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP (opens Aug 1).

Observers may see the Flounder trawl used in the Eastern US/CAN area.

In the Restricted Gear Areas (RGA) observers may see the Haddock Separator Trawl, Ruhle Trawl, or Rope Separator trawl.

This cheatsheet will help you recognize the types of trawl gear that you may see while observing in the SMP’s.

**Ruhle Trawl**

Previously referred to as an “Eliminator Trawl”, this is a special type of net used to separate haddock and cod. Leading meshes of the net will measure about 8 feet, kite panels will be present, the large meshes in fore part of net are an escape outlet.

*Large leading meshes*

Photo: David Beutel, URI Seagrant

**Haddock Separator Trawl**

This net has a trouser trawl configuration, with a separator panel that herds fish into one of two codends. The top codend is closed to catch haddock, and the escape outlet is the bottom codend, which is left open to allow cod to escape.

*Semi-circle escape opening*

Photo: David Martins, UMASS Dartmouth

**Rope Separator Trawl**

The rope separator trawl uses a series of parallel ropes as a horizontal separator. The ropes are 14mm poly and spaced between 1-2 feet apart. There is a large escape opening just underneath the ropes to allow cod, flounder and other non-target species to escape.

*Parallel separator ropes (Image seen from the side during hauling)*

Photos: http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/fisheries/extension/pdfs/oct06/he_Coop_Res_gear.pdf

**Flounder Trawl**

*Location of large diamond mesh escape outlet*

A Trawl Net would be considered a “Flounder Trawl” if it fits one of the following descriptions: A 2-seam, low-rise net where the footrope length is not greater than 105 ft, and the headrope is at Least 30% longer than the footrope. Or, a two-seam, low-rise net where the top panel of the net contains a section of mesh (often a different color) at least 10 ft long and stretching from selvedge to selvedge, composed of at least 12 inch mesh that is inserted no farther than 4.5 meshes behind the headrope.
Don't forget to bring your Program Manual with you! Use the Manual, this Cheatsheet and NEFOP memos 08-015, 06-003 and 10-009 to work with the captain in order to complete your gear characteristics log. Contact your editor upon return with any questions before sending in your trip.

Restricted Gear Areas

The following Portuguese phrases will help you communicate well, use across gears.

**Flatfish Trawl**

"Do you have large meshes on the top of the net so the cod can get out?"
Tens malha grande na parte cima da rede para o bacalhau poder sair?
"What size are the large meshes?"
Qual é o tamanho das malhas grandes?

**Haddock Separator Trawl**

"What is the mesh size of the open codend?"
Qual é o tamanho da malha no saco que está aberto?

**Ruhle Trawl**

"What are the length and width of each of your kite panels?"
Qual é o comprimento e largura dos painéis de papagaio?

**Rope Separator Trawl**

“How many meshes wide is the escape opening?"
Quantas malhas de largura é a abertura que permite o peixe escapar?

“How many meshes high is the escape opening?"
Quantas malhas de comprimento é a abertura que permite o peixe escapar?