Work Shop on Turtle Excluder Devise (TED) optimal rigging and development.
Hirtshals, Denmark February 13-17, 2006

Prospectus

The GEF/UNDP/FAO project, “Reduction of Environmental Impact from Tropical Shrimp Trawling, through the introduction of By-catch Reduction Technologies and Change of Management (EP/GLO/201/GEF)”
- include the countries CAMEROON, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA , CUBA, INDONESIA, IRAN, MEXICO, NIGERIA, PHILIPPINES, VENEZUELA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, (PLUS BAHRAIN).

Many of these countries use (or want to use) the US Turtle Excluder Device (TED) because of own legislation or because it is a precondition for shrimp export to USA. Some countries have problems with shrimp loss because they don’t rig the unit correctly. In the ICES FTFB (Fisheries Technology and Fish Behaviour) working group new interesting results came up in the subgroup on bycatch in the world shrimp trawl fisheries at the last meeting in Rome, April 2005, on shrimp behaviour in relation to grids. These theories in relation to the correct rigging of the TED and a development of a “boulder” – excluder in front of the grid – are the theme at a 4 days work shop/ tank trial February13-17, 2006.

The background for the need to develop a boulder-excluder/vent is that the fishing industry often mounts the TED grid-escape hole downwards to be able to also exclude garbage that otherwise would block the grid. It would be best to have the escape hole upwards (because this rig is more forgiving as regard shrimp loss particularly for less skilled users) and in this connection a simple boulder excluder could be mounted at the bottom panel in front of the grid.

All the different rigs will be recorded on video tape and will be used in future workshops in relation to the project. It is also considered to produce a short tutorial film for the fishing industry that describes the best and easiest way to rig the TED in order to avoid shrimp loss.

The workshop will also provide the possibility to investigate the geometry and performance of different types of shrimp trawls in the Flume tank, and to discuss with a Danish net-maker, the introduction of the new high-tensile Polyethylene netting into modern shrimp trawls. The participants will be able to se modern fish auction facilities in one of the largest fishing harbours in the North Sea fishery.

Thomas Moth-Poulsen
Fishing Gear Technology
FIIT
FAO Rome

Tel.: +39 06 570 55034
e-mail: thomas.mothpoulsen@fao.org
.