

FISH CAPTURE COMMITTEE

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As in the past the technical parameters influencing the behaviour of the gear during fishing were studied. On board a middleclass vessel a semi-pelagic ottertrawl ("Cascadeur") was tested. The horizontal and the vertical netopening were measured in relation to the towing speed.

A project was set up and carried out to study the use of oval otter boards in the semi-pelagic fishery on middle-class vessels.

By means of net transducers and spreadmeters it was possible to adopt the rigging of the gear when fishing with semi-pelagic nets.

In the field of energy saving different riggings of the electrodes in electrical fishing during beam trawling were studied.

For the coastal fisheries experiments were carried out for sole and shrimps. Special attention was paid to the electrical field strength configuration.

In connection with a study of the twine area of trawl

nets, different methods for the determination of the twine diameter were studied.

The studies on netting materials concerned the influence of bottom sediments on mesh size and abrasion.

A comparative study between different mesh gauges (the NEAFC-gauge, the ICES-gauge and a newly designed EEC-gauge) was carried out.

In Belgium, 66% of the netting yarns used are made of polyethylene and 33% of polyamide.

#### Future work

- With regard to trawls the catchability in relation to the technical parameters will be studied for one-boat semi-pelagic nets, for the coastal and middle-class fisheries and also for the semi-pelagic and pelagic pair trawling.

- Research will be carried out to study the possibility to introduce pair-trawling on flatfish.

- Fuel saving studies will be continued.

- Trials with electrified otter- and beamtrawls are planned.

- Comparative studies on the use of different mesh gauges will be continued.