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International Council for the
Exploration of the Sea

C.M.1987/B:1
Report of
Activities

FISH CAPTURE COMMITTEE

by

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1985



THÜNEN

Digitalization sponsored
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BELGIUM

(Ir. G. Vanden Broucke)

In view of the need for energy-saving studies of the technical parameters of trawling gear, the development of new types of fishing gear and the introduction of new fishing methods was continued. On board the research vessel "Belgica" data were collected on the parameters determining the drag of bottom trawls by measuring the vertical opening and the tension in the warps and the legs.

Data were collected on a traction meter system for beam trawlers with the aim of enhancing the safety during fishing. This system was tested on board a beam trawler (900 hp).

For the coastal fishery, experiments with a semi-pelagic net were carried out along the Belgian coast. This net was equipped with a "Rock Hopper" groundgear.

To increase the catch rate of small beam trawlers, experiments were carried out with an electrified otter trawl for shrimps. The electric field strength in the front part of the net was studied. A comparative study of the selectivity of beam trawls equipped with square and diamond mesh codends was continued. The laboratory study on mesh shrinkage due to sediments was completed.

Various yarns and nettings were testing for knot strength, mesh strength, mesh size, shrinkage and elongation.

Scallop fishing was introduced into the Belgian sea-fishery.