

REPORT

AN EVALUATION OF THE CATCH EFFICIENCY OF A
NMFS CERTIFIED, STANDARD TURTLE EXCLUDER DEVICE (TED) REQUIRED
IN THE MID-ATLANTIC SUMMER FLOUNDER FISHERY

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A Report to the
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INTRODUCTION

In January 2007, a workshop was conducted by the University of Rhode Island (URI) to solicit input from the trawl fishing industry on methodologies and priorities to reduce sea turtle interactions in the inshore trawl fisheries in the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions. Fishing industry participants in the workshop clearly indicated their concern that reduced catches of target species (i.e., summer flounder) associated with the use of the required turtle excluder devices (TEDs) in the inshore trawl fishery targeting summer flounder (*Paralichthys dentatus*) were problematic, and that improvement in the efficiency of the TED required in this fishery was a very high priority. Although this TED has been certified by NMFS in terms of its ability to separate and eject sea turtles from a trawl, there is limited quantitative information concerning its efficiency to retain the target species. Summer flounder are harvested in the winter offshore by large vessels (20+m in length), and in the summer inshore by both small (15-20m in length) and large trawl vessels.

In April 2007, the URI proposed to the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to use existing grant and contract resources dedicated to protected species issues to evaluate improved TED designs in the summer flounder trawl fishery. The NEFSC subsequently authorized this research, and requested that an initial test be conducted to assess catch losses using the existing TED. During summer 2007, field research was conducted on the effect of the currently mandated TED on the catch of the target species in the mid-Atlantic, inshore, summer flounder trawl fishery. The work was undertaken by URI staff in cooperation with NMFS using the F/V *Darana R*, which owned and operated by Capt. Jim Ruhle and based in Hampton VA. Additionally, one day of testing was conducted using a modified TED, and a second day of testing was conducted using the standard TED but with a larger opening. In both cases, the results are too limited to analyze and draw conclusions from in this report, but the data are included in the electronic files included in the appendix to this report.

METHODS

Gear

The TEDs used in this experiment were certified, standard TEDs provided by Wanchese Trawl Company, and are ones that are currently required in the summer flounder trawl fishery. Jon Knight, of Superior Trawl in Pt. Judith, RI, constructed the cylindrical webbing extension sections of the required 8.9 cm (3.5 in) mesh and Jack Forrester of the NMFS, Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), Harvesting Systems and Engineering Branch in Pascagoula MS supervised the installation of the TEDs in the extension sections in Rhode Island. Control tows used an extension identical in size but without a TED in the same trawl net. Extensions were easily swapped using rings and lines that ran the circumference of the extension

The TED was evaluated using a 4-seam trawl commonly used by fishermen targeting summer flounder. The headrope measured 17.0 m (55 ft), and the 21.7 m (70 ft) sweep was constructed of 1 row of 1.3 cm (1/2 in) chain attached to a 5.1 cm (2.0 in) cookie sweep. The net was constructed of 15.2 cm (6.0 in) mesh polyethylene webbing with a 14 cm (5.5 in) mesh double-twine polyethylene codend. The same 600 kg (1323 lb) trawl doors were used for all tows during the evaluation.

The TED used in this study was constructed of aluminum pipe (inner bars were 4.5 cm (1.4 in) in outside diameter). The dimensions were 81.3 cm (32 in) in width and 129.5 cm (51 in) in height (Figure 1). The bar spacing of the grid was 10.2 cm (4 in), except for the two large openings 36.8 x 25.4 cm (14.5 x 10 in) along the bottom. The TED grid was installed in an 8.9 cm x 4 mm (3.5 x 1/8 in), braided, double-twine, polyethylene extension, 20 meshes in depth at an angle of approximately 45°. The TED extension was installed in a top opening configuration between the body of the trawl and the codend with two 20 cm (8 in) hard plastic floats installed on each side of the grid. The TED opening consisted of a one mesh cut leaving an escape hole with a stretched measurement of 91.4 cm (36 in) wide and 40.6 cm (16 in) in height, covered by a flap constructed of 3.8 cm (1.5 in) polyethylene webbing. This opening was in excess of the 88.9 cm (35 in) and 30.5 cm (12 in) stretched measurement requirements for this fishery.

Field Work

Comparative towing was conducted aboard the F/V *Darana R*. This vessel is 30m in length and is typical of the large class vessels in the summer flounder trawl fishery fleet. The original TED was damaged beyond repair at the end of the second day of the study after the first six pairs of tows were completed. This occurred because of large catches of rays and other bottom debris taken in the trawl. In order to continue working as close to the experimental protocol as possible, another certified flounder TED with a nylon extension belonging to the vessel was sewn into our experimental polyethylene extension. This was done in a manner that insured the angle of the grid in the extension was consistent with original configuration as determined by side-by-side comparison. This configuration was used for next 14 of the 37 paired tows completed in this study after which another TED was attained and sewn into the existing extension.

The vessel captain was directed to conduct fishing operations at locations of his choosing so as to duplicate conditions in the mid-Atlantic trawl fishery and to maximize flounder catch. All towing was conducted daylight conditions from sunrise to sunset. An ABBA paired tow methodology (A=experimental and B=control) was utilized throughout the study to maximize efficiency in terms of time handling gear. All tows within a pair were identical with respect to location, duration, speed, etc. All tows were approximately 90 minutes in duration.

Data were recorded on standard NMFS Observer logs. The information recorded for each comparative tow included position, time, depth, temperature and weather, as well as detailed catch and length frequency data. In each tow, the catch was sorted into bushel baskets and weighed on a Marel platform scale. In some circumstances, average basket or individual animal weights had to be used to estimate skate or dogfish total weights. Length data were collected on summer flounder and other species, as time and sampling priorities dictated. Random selection of baskets was used when sub-sampling was required.

Underwater video recording of the trawl and the performance of the TED was attempted on several tows. A Sony DCR-HC32 digital video camera mounted in an underwater housing was attached to the net in a variety of locations to document fish

escapement out of the TED opening, fish behavior at the grid, the orientation of the TED during trawling, and other gear aspects related to catch efficiency.

Data Analysis

Data were compiled using Microsoft Excel. All of the catch data were standardized to a tow duration of 90 minutes. Catch weights were compared using one-tailed, paired T-tests to evaluate the effect of the TED on summer flounder retention and bycatch reduction. Separate analyses were conducted on the entire catch and on catch weights more and less than 50 kg. This division was based on review of the data and fishermen perception that a good catch of summer flounder was more than 50 kg per tow and an a poor catch of summer flounder was less than 50 kg per tow. In the bycatch analyses, the results were divided in groups of catches of dogfish of more than and less than 100 kg, skates and rays of more than and less than 500 kg, and total bycatch of more than and less than 900 kg. These divisions were based on a review of the data and perceptions of acceptable bycatch rates. Although not all sub-sets of the data met all the assumptions of a parametric statistical test, we decided that by invoking the Central Limit Theorem, the paired T-test is sufficiently robust, so as to provide reliable analyses in this study. A Kolmogorov-Smirnov (K-S) test was used to detect significant shifts in the size frequency distributions between the experimental and control nets (Sokal and Rohlf 1981). A significance level of $p < 0.05$ was used for all statistical tests.

RESULTS

A total of 37 successful comparative paired tows (74 total tows) were completed over 15 sampling days using a trawl equipped with a certified, standard flounder TED and a trawl without a TED installed. Approximately one half of the tows were east of the Delmarva Peninsula, and the other half of the tows were south of Long Island (Figure 2). Two tows accomplished during the field work were deemed unsuitable for analysis for reasons such as gear damage due to the presence of large quantities of bottom debris including “mud balls”, discarded whelk traps, etc. and large catches of skates, rays and dogfish. Where appropriate, the tows were replicated again or the paired tows eliminated from analysis as not representative of the experimental sampling. A preliminary analysis

was conducted on the 17 paired tows involving the TED which was rigged aboard the vessel. The results were consistent with those from the other paired tows, and therefore these tows were included in all the analyses presented in this report (see Appendix).

The objective of the research was to evaluate the effect of a NMFS certified, standard TED on summer flounder catches. The average catch weight of summer flounder per 90 minutes of tow time in the trawl without a TED was 111.4 kg and in the trawl with a TED was 72.1 kg. This result is a 35% reduction in efficiency in the TED equipped trawl, and is a statistically significant difference ($p \leq 0.001$, Table 1). During approximately one-half of the study, summer flounder catch rates were relatively low (< 50 kg/90 minute tow). On tows in this portion of the study, the catches of summer flounder in the control net averaged 16.1 kg compared to 10.2 kg in the TED net, which is a statistically significant reduction of 37% ($p = 0.001$, Table 2-A). When summer flounder catch rates exceeded 50 kg per 90 minute tow, the tows without a TED had an average catch of 212.0 kg compared to tows with a TED that had an average catch of 137.5 kg. This is a significant loss of 35% of the target species ($p \leq 0.001$, Table 2-B).

One critical issue surrounding TEDs is the potential clogging effects of catches and bycatches in the grid. To investigate this phenomenon, the impact of large catches and the presence of certain species on target catch efficiency were analyzed. The paired tows were assigned into 'small' and 'large' catch tows based on the criterion that if at least one of the tows in a pair had an overall total catch rate of at least 900 kg, then that pair would be considered a 'large' catch pair. For the 'small' catch tows (16 pairs), the control net averaged 67.3 kg and the TED net averaged 56.6 kg of summer flounder. The resulting loss was 16% and was statistically significant ($p = 0.04$, Table 3-A). In terms of 'large' catch tows (21 pairs), the control net averaged 145.0 kg of summer flounder compared to 83.9 kg for the TED net. This is a significant reduction of 42% ($p \leq 0.001$, Table 3-B).

A total of 48 species or species groups were caught during this study (see electronic data appendix for details). The average total bycatch rate (catch per tow) in the control net for all pairs was 1,153.6 kg. In the TED net, the mean bycatch rate was 737.8 kg. The TED produced an overall 36% reduction in total bycatch, which is a statistically significant reduction ($p = 0.001$, Table 1-C). A summary of the effect of the TED on the

catches of various individual bycatch species (or species groups) is provided in Table 4. It is important to note that only tow pairs where the species or group was caught in at least one of the two tows were included in the analysis, so as to avoid a bias in the paired analyses when tow zero catches would result in a zero difference, when the difference was probable due to the lack of the particular species in the area, not the lack of an effect of the TED. Significant reductions in mean catch rates ($p \leq 0.05$) were detected for skates/rays, clearnose skate (*Raja eglanteria*), roughtail stingray (*Dasyatis centroura*), eagle ray (*Myliobatis* sp.), and roundfish sp. Observable -but statistically non-significant reductions occurred for two important commercial species: horseshoe crab (*Limulus polyphemus*) and monkfish (*Lophius americanus*). No statistically significant differences in catch rates between control and TED nets were detected for spiny dogfish, smooth dogfish, and *Loligo* squid.

Two groups of bycatch were dominant throughout the study and are most likely to contribute to clogging of the TED grid. Skates and rays (Rajiformes and Myliobatiformes) were caught on every tow, and were subsequently treated as one group. Successful paired tows were divided into two categories based on the criterion that if at least one of the tows in a pair caught 500 kg or more of skates and rays, it was considered a 'large' bycatch pair. For paired tows with less than 500 kg of skates and rays (14 pairs), the mean catch of summer flounder was 104.9 kg for control tows versus 74.4 kg for TED tows. This results in a 29% reduction, which is a statistically significant difference ($p=0.03$, Table 5-A). On 'large' skate/rays bycatch tows (23 pairs), the control net catches averaged 115.4 kg of summer flounder and the TED net averaged 70.7 kg. This represented a loss in target catch of 39%, which is significant statistically ($p < 0.001$, Table 5-B)

Smooth dogfish (*Mustelus canis*) and spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) were combined into a dogfish group, which occurred in every tow. Pairs were classified into two categories based on the criterion that if at least one of the tows in a pair had catches of 100 kg or more it was considered a 'large' dogfish catch pair. Considering all the 'small' dogfish catch tows (17 pairs), the mean catch of summer flounder in the control net was 37.8 kg compared to 32.5 kg for the TED net. This represents a loss of 14% and is a significant difference ($p=0.03$, Table 6-A). When the catch of dogfish was 'large'

(20 pairs), the control net averaged 173.9 kg and the TED net averaged 105.7 kg. This is a 39% reduction and is statistically significant ($p \leq 0.001$, Table 6-B).

Another important consideration of the performance of a TED is the size selectivity of the grid with respect to the target species, and species with a similar geometric morphology to the target species. During the summer 2007 study, over 4,200 summer flounder were measured for total length. Length frequency distributions for both control and TED caught summer flounder from all paired tows are depicted in Figure 3. The shapes of the two distributions are nearly identical. A K-S test indicated no statistically significant difference between the two distributions (Table 7). A similar comparison was performed on the length frequency distributions from the 2,400 summer flounder that were caught only in 'large' catch tow pairs (>50 kg). Figure 4 illustrates that these distributions are nearly identical and a K-S test failed to detect any significant difference between them (Table 7). With respect to a bycatch species, body size measurements (disk width) were obtained from approximately 1,400 clearnose skate. The size frequencies of clearnose skate caught in the control and TED nets are shown in Figure 5. A K-S test failed to detect any significant difference between the two distributions.

Several attempts were made to collect video data on TED tows during the middle daylight hours. Camera positions included on top of the net looking at the escape opening, in the net looking at the TED grid, and forward in the net looking back down towards the sweep. Due to the amount of suspended sediments produced during trawling in sand and mud bottoms, visibility was extremely limited and the vast majority of data was uninformative. Some observations were successfully made with the camera behind the TED grid in the net looking forward. Mostly what was noted was dominant species of bycatch such as skates, rays, and dogfish being "hung-up" by the bars of the TED grid. Quite often it was only a temporary clogging by an individual or small number of fish, but the range of view provided did not usually allow for the determination of whether these fish escaped out of the opening, traveled back to the mouth of the net, or made it through the grid to the codend. It was observed in several instances that dogfish were capable of forcing their way through the grid after getting stuck. This highlights the potential for substantial clogging of the TED for at least short periods of time when the

catch rates of dogfish are high. The effects of this clogging were clearly evident on occasion when the trawl was hauled back to the vessel (Figure 6), and on one occasion a large ray was found to be completely blocking the TED unable to pass either through the TED or out the opening (Figure 7).

DISCUSSION

This study thoroughly quantified the effects of a certified, standard flounder TED on the catch of summer flounder, the target species in the summer flounder trawl fishery. Data in the experiment were collected under normal fishing conditions in areas along the mid-Atlantic coast where summer flounder are commercially targeted and where bycatch species are typically encountered. Comparative towing was performed under a standard paired ABBA experimental protocol used in conducting gear comparisons, with only minimal deviations in tow locations (see data appendix for actual begin/end tow information). The gear used during this study was maintained by crew of the *F/V Darana R*, and fishery operations remained consistent throughout the project. The vessel is typical of the large class vessels in the fleet and Captain, crew and vessel have a long history of participation in the summer flounder trawl fishery.

Overall, the certified, standard flounder TED resulted in a significant reduction in catch efficiency for both the target and bycatch species. This result appeared to remain consistent throughout the study regardless of the whether smaller or larger amounts of summer flounder were caught. There was no indication that the size composition of summer flounder captured was significantly affected by the TED. It is worth noting that nearly all summer flounder measured during the study were of a legal market size.

Target catch retention appeared to be related to the volume of bycatch in a given tow. When total catch rates were relatively high (>900 kg/90 min.), the retention efficiency of the target species was reduced more than 2.5 times than when total catch rates were relatively low (<900 kg/90 min.). This indicates that when high volumes of fish are encountered clogging of the TED grid is a significant factor influencing gear performance. Skates/rays and dogfish were the two dominant groups of bycatch species likely to induce clogging of the TED by virtue of their size and volume. During hauling of the net, both skates/rays and dogfish were commonly observed to be hung up on the

grid. On several occasions, clogging of the TED was so severe that large volumes of fish accumulated ahead of the TED, filling up the extension (see data appendix for details). When skates/ray bycatch was large, target catch losses increased from 29% to 39%. Large stingrays such as rougtail stingrays were observed to get stuck in front of the grid and were unable to escape out of the opening. When dogfish bycatch was high (>100 kg/90 min.), summer flounder losses increased over 2.5 times the rate when dogfish bycatch was low. Video observations of dogfish indicate that while individual dogfish could fit through the openings of the grid, they often hung up due to their snake-like body motions. In these cases, dogfish probably cause temporary blockages until they pass through the TED.

Analysis of individual species and groups of bycatch species highlight the influence of body size and shape on the catch efficiency of TED-equipped trawls. Skates and rays caught in the study were often quite large and possessed a body shape that is essentially a flattened disk. Due to their body morphology, these species do not easily pass through the flounder TED grid unless they are oriented in a sideways fashion. Bycatch species such as monkfish and horseshoe crab have body shapes that allow large individuals to only pass through the larger openings along the bottom of the grid. Not surprisingly, *Loligo* squid pass efficiently through the grid because of their relatively small and streamlined body configuration. Although the roundfish species group was composed of many different species, much of the bycatch weight of this group was due to catches of relatively large striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) and bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*). By virtue of their size, these species did not pass through the grid very easily. The one interesting anomaly is with the dogfish species. The average catch rates for both spiny and smooth dogfish were nearly identical in the control and TED nets. Particularly with respect to spiny dogfish, the size and shape of this species suggest that individuals should have some difficulty in passing through the grid. Although there was visual evidence of dogfish getting caught up and clogging the grid during the tow and on haul-backs, the similarity in average catch rates of dogfish between the control and TED nets was not anticipated.

This study provides a useful baseline on the effects of the certified, standard TED design currently required in the Mid-Atlantic summer flounder trawl fishery on catches of

both the target species and bycatch species. Future research should be directed to improving the efficiency of the TED so as to enhance the effect of the catch efficiency of the target species, while maintaining the ability of the TED to prevent or minimize sea turtles interactions with the trawl gear.

Table 1-A. Summer flounder catch and total bycatch data for all paired tows using a standard flounder TED. All data has been standardized to weight (kg) per 90 minutes of towsing time.

tow	control sum fl wt	control bycatch wt	tow	TED sum fl wt	TED bycatch wt
1	10.5	579	2	3.9	217.4
4	3.5	83.6	3	0.4	34
5	8.8	789.6	6	4.9	419.6
8	13.3	285.7	7	12.3	228.9
9	16.3	413.6	10	5.2	265
13	8.7	453.7	14	7.5	221.6
26	6.2	229.8	27	4.1	436.1
29	8.7	752.7	28	13.7	718.4
30	12.3	1166	31	3.2	658.2
33	24.2	257.1	32	24.2	128.8
36	13.9	898.7	35	10.6	284.1
37	21.6	3967.4	38	7.7	1225.8
40	43.6	3432.3	39	20.7	1270.4
41	32	523.7	42	13	673.1
44	19.1	746	43	20.4	480.5
45	104	2612.1	46	9.9	977.8
48	97.4	1616.9	47	36.8	1480.2
49	107.6	1346	50	79	1226.8
52	112.1	840.5	51	87.3	1265.2
53	100.7	475.8	54	53.1	517.1
56	167.3	663.2	55	58.2	1328.8
57	202.2	607.1	58	200.9	556.1
60	226	425.2	59	147.8	413.9
61	236.9	506.3	62	210.5	634
64	455.2	1454.1	63	239.5	915.1
65	311.9	1500.9	66	148.3	854.6
68	286	678.3	67	211	769.3
69	160.2	498.2	70	183.2	481.9
72	177.4	1936.9	71	134.6	2857.4
73	205.6	760.4	74	157.1	421.7
76	274.7	677.8	75	179.3	503.6
77	389.9	657.8	78	206.4	471.4
80	201.4	2483.2	79	131.5	1517.3
81	15.9	1991.8	83	14.2	444.6
85	16.2	1126.5	84	6.6	471.3
86	13.1	1899	87	7.5	831.8
89	17.6	3346.5	88	12.8	1097.5

Table 1-B. A comparison of summer flounder catch for all paired tows using a standard flounder TED. All data has been standardized to weight (kg) per 90 minutes of towing time.

	control	TED
Mean	111.40	72.09
Variance	14770.60	6410.05
Observations	37	37
Pearson Correlation	0.93	
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0	
df	36	
t Stat	4.315	
p(T<=t) one-tail	<0.001	
t Critical one-tail	1.688	
% reduction		35

Table 1-C. A comparison of the overall total bycatch for all paired tows using a standard flounder TED.

	control	TED
Mean	1153.60	737.82
Variance	925593.92	285794.91
Observations	37	37
Pearson Correlation	0.58	
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0	
df	36	
t Stat	3.237	
p(T<=t) one-tail	0.001	
t Critical one-tail	1.688	
% reduction		36

Table 2-A. A comparison of flounder catch rates (kg/90 minutes) on paired tows where the total weight of summer flounder was less than 50 kg for both tows in the pair.

	control	TED
Mean	16.07	10.15
Variance	89.13	42.61
Observations	19	19
Pearson Correlation	0.67	
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0	
df	18	
t Stat	3.698	
p(T<=t) one-tail	0.001	
t Critical one-tail	1.734	
% reduction		37

Table 2-B. A comparison of flounder catch rates (kg/90 minutes) on paired tows where the total weight of summer flounder was greater than 50 kg for at least one of the pairs.

	control	TED
Mean	212.03	137.47
Variance	10306.45	4715.55
Observations	18	18
Pearson Correlation	0.80	
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0	
df	17	
t Stat	5.070	
p(T<=t) one-tail	<0.001	
t Critical one-tail	1.740	
% reduction		35

Table 3-A. A comparison of summer flounder catch rates (kg/90 minutes) when the total catch weight was less than 900 kg for both paired tows.

	control	TED
Mean	67.33	56.56
Variance	7610.97	6223.58
Observations	16	16
Pearson Correlation	0.96	
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0	
df	15	
t Stat	1.826	
p(T<=t) one-tail	0.044	
t Critical one-tail	1.753	
% reduction		16

Table 3-B. A comparison of summer flounder catch rates (kg/90 minutes) when the total catch weight was greater than 900 kg for at least one tow in the pair.

	control	TED
Mean	144.98	83.91
Variance	18140.66	6530.78
Observations	21	21
Pearson Correlation	0.95	
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0	
Df	20	
t Stat	4.445	
p(T<=t) one-tail	<0.001	
t Critical one-tail	1.725	
% reduction		42

Table 4. A comparison of individual species or species groups of bycatch from all paired tows using a standard flounder TED. Average weights are given in kg and the analysis of data involves only tow pairs in which a species or species group was present in at least one of the paired tows.

	control	TED	p-value
skates/rays	829.2	446.9	0.001
clearnose skate	410.9	205.8	0.007
rougtail stingray	187.2	21.8	0.006
eagle ray	149.7	12.0	0.003
spiny dogfish	339.2	333.8	0.466
smooth dogfish	57.4	58.8	0.454
roundfish	15.8	7.9	0.002
horseshoe crab	8.9	5.9	0.059
monkfish	9.2	4.7	0.075
loligo	1.1	0.9	0.218

Table 5-A. A comparison of summer flounder catch rates (kg/90 minutes) when the bycatch of skates and rays was less than 500 kg for both paired tows.

	control	TED
Mean	104.88	74.38
Variance	15656.40	7454.72
Observations	14	14
Pearson Correlation	0.93	
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0	
df	13	
t Stat	2.079	
p(T<=t) one-tail	0.029	
t Critical one-tail	1.771	
% reduction		29

Table 5-B. A comparison of summer flounder catch rates (kg/90 minutes) when the bycatch of skates and rays was greater than 500 kg for at least one tow in a pair.

	control	TED
Mean	115.37	70.69
Variance	14875.03	6078.75
Observations	23	23
Pearson Correlation	0.94	
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0	
df	22	
t Stat	3.808	
p(T<=t) one-tail	<0.001	
t Critical one-tail	1.717	
% reduction		39

Table 6-A. A comparison of summer flounder catch rates (kg/90 minutes) when the bycatch of dogfish (both smooth and spiny) is less than 100 kg on both tows in a pair.

	control	TED
Mean	37.84	32.51
Variance	3916.46	3890.68
Observations	17	17
Pearson Correlation	0.99	
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0	
df	16	
t Stat	2.067	
p(T<=t) one-tail	0.028	
t Critical one-tail	1.746	
% reduction		14

Table 6-B. A comparison of summer flounder catch rates (kg/90 minutes) when the bycatch of dogfish (both smooth and spiny) is greater than 100 kg on at least one of the paired tows.

	control	TED
Mean	173.93	105.73
Variance	15731.85	6275.74
Observations	20	20
Pearson Correlation	0.92	
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0	
df	19	
t Stat	4.938	
p(T<=t) one-tail	<0.001	
t Critical one-tail	1.729	
% reduction		39

Table 7. Results of K-S test for difference in size distribution of summer flounder and clearnose skate. The Max D is less than D alpha at p=0.05 for all test conducted, which indicates no observable significant difference.

	p=0.05	Max D
	D alpha	
Summer flounder - all paired tows	0.042	0.017
Summer flounder - paired tows (at least 1 > 50 kg)	0.056	0.029
Clearnose skate - all paired tows	0.072	0.064

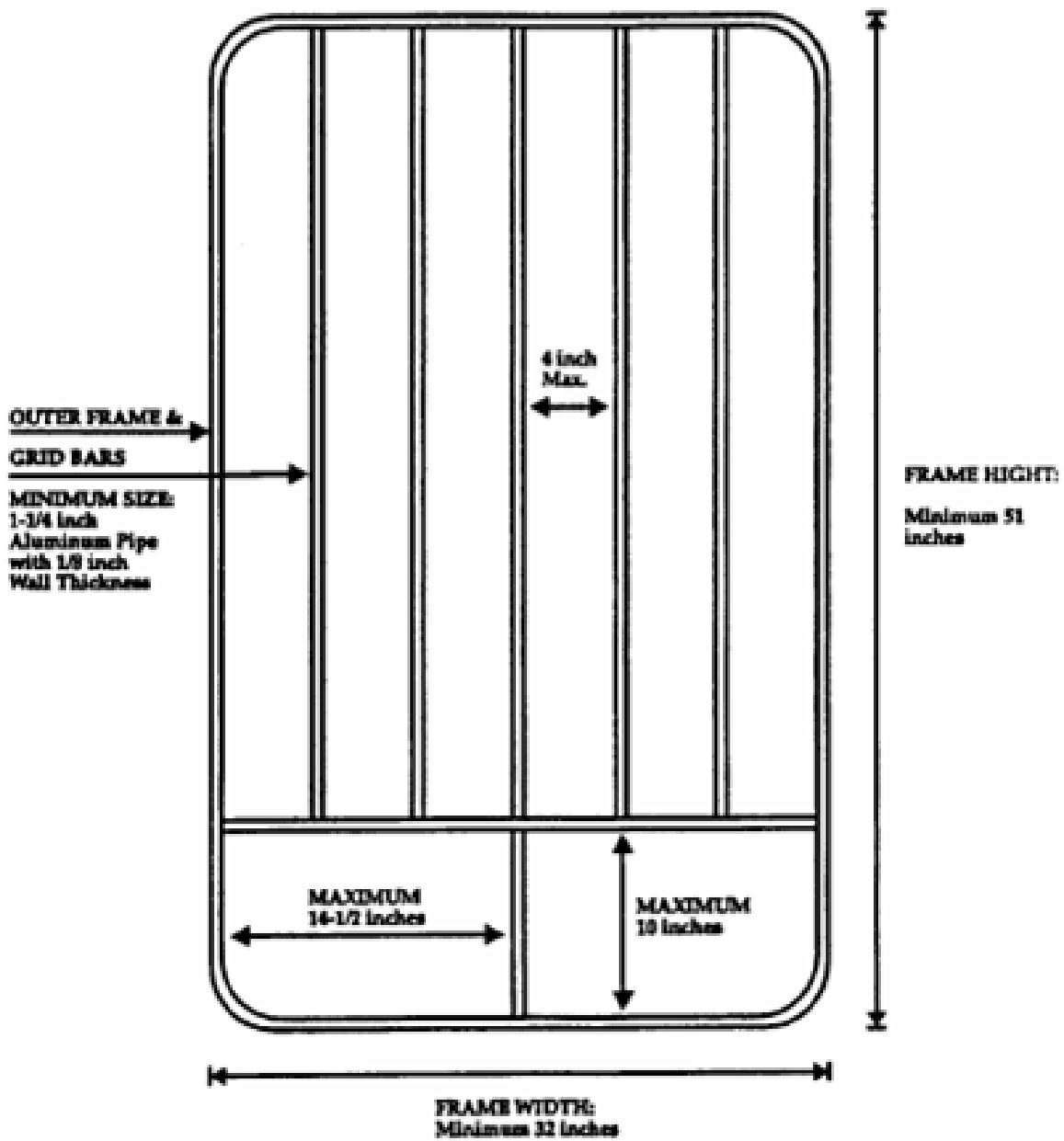


Figure 1. Diagram of flounder TED certified for use by NMFS.

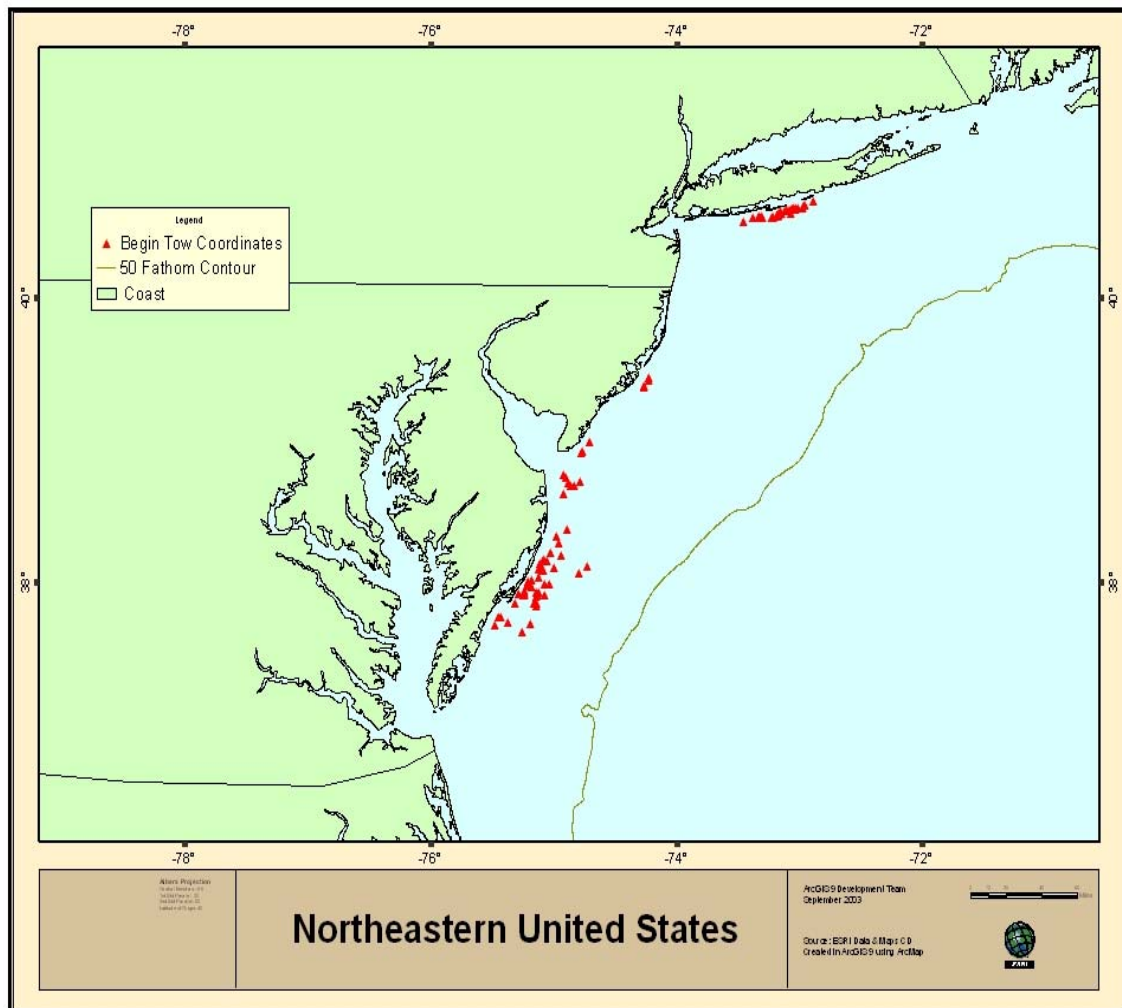


Figure 2. Location of starting positions for comparative tows conducted from 5 June – 2 July, 2007.

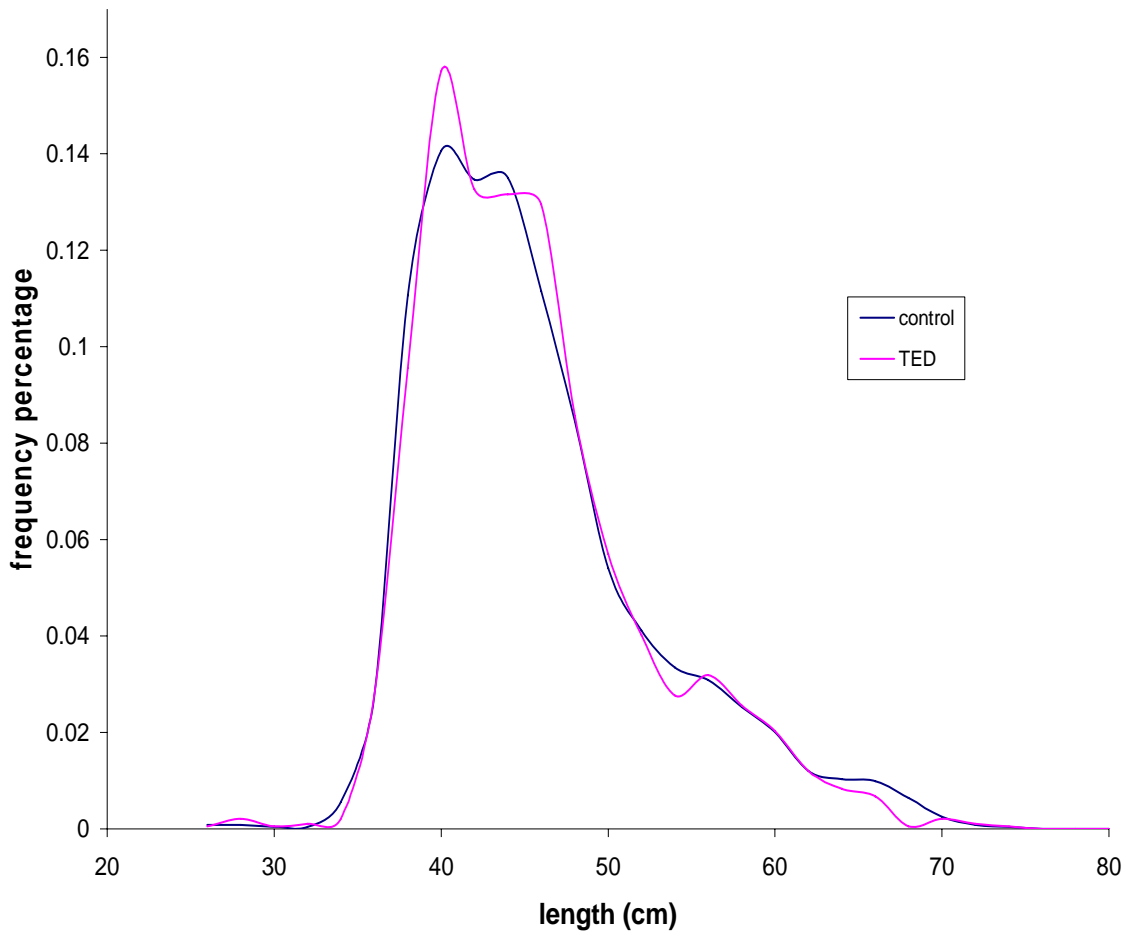


Figure 3. Length frequency plot as a percentage of measured summer flounder for all paired tows with a standard flounder TED. Length measurement is total length.

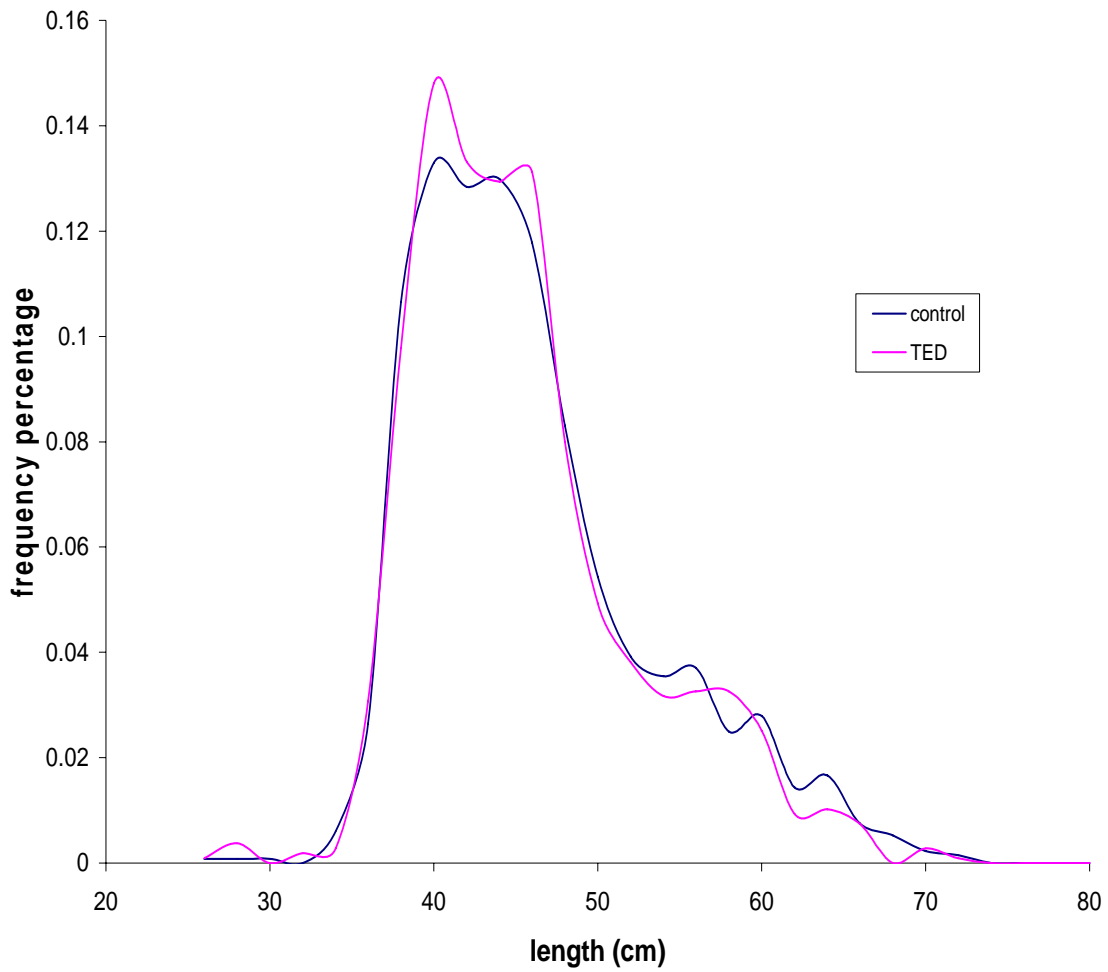


Figure 4. Length frequency plot as a percentage of measure summer flounder for all paired tows where the total weight of summer flounder was greater than 50 kg in at least one tow. Length measurement is total length.

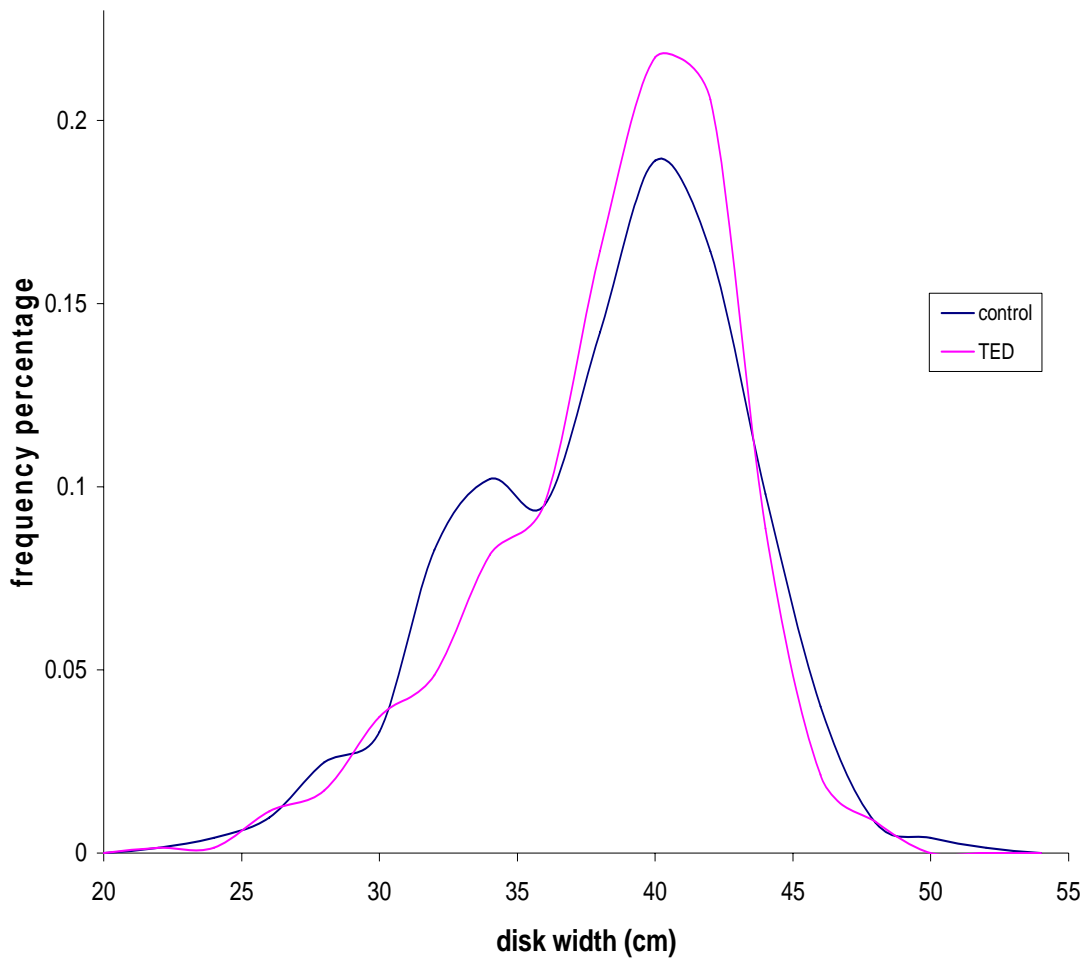


Figure 5. Size frequency plot as a percentage of clearnose skate measured for all paired tows. Measurement is disk width.



Figure 6. Photographs of the TED equipped trawl on haul-back showing the clogging by dogfish, skates and rays ahead of the TED grid.



Figure 7. Photograph of the single ray clogging the TED.

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