Model Experiments on the Physical Characteristics of the Thai Shrimp Trawl Gear

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Abstract

This study was carried out in order to obtain some fundamental information on the physical characteristics of the balloon type single rigged Thai shrimp trawl gear in a circular tank. The reduced scale model net was constructed on Dr. Tauti's comparative method.

Observations and measurements were made simultaneously on the shape and resistance of the net under the influence of six stages of flow velocity. For convenience of discussion, all empirical values from the reduced scale model have been converted into full scale values.

The results obtained in this study are summarized as follows :

1) Five parameters i. e. net mouth height (H), wing tip distance (W), sweeping area (Sa), projective area of net mouth (An) and water filtering volume (Fv) were taken into account to determine the physical characteristics of the gear.

The above mentioned parameters are formulated as follows:

$$H = 2.01 V^{-0.76}$$

$$W = 5.85 V + 7.6$$

$$Sa = 17.9 V - 3.4$$

$$An = -17.0 V^{3} + 68.4 V^{2} - 86.0 V + 57.0$$

$$Fv = 21.3 V + 3.2$$

2) Concerning the fluid dynamical resistance of the gear under towing conditions, the obtained results of total net resistance (Rt), net resistance (Rn) and otter board resistance (Rob) are formulated as follows:

$$Rt = 665.55 V^{1.9}$$

Rn = 449.62 V^{1.5}
Ro b = 114.45 V^{2.0}

INTRODUCTION

As fisheries play an important role in her economy, Thailand has a long history of shrimp fishing. Recently, the annual catch of shrimp has been increasing in many

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parts of the country. The fishing ground lies mainly around the coastal area off the mouth of big rivers as well as on the continental shelf.

The fishing gears and methods being employed in each fishing ground and each country vary according to the habitat and behavior of each species of shrimp and obtainable gear. However, the bottom trawl net has been proved to be the most effective fishing gear from the economical point of view.

The trawling method can be classified as otter board trawling, beam trawling and pair trawling. At present otter board trawling is considered as one of the most convenient and effective methods.

Many studies have been made on the physical characteristics of the shrimp trawl net to improve fishing efficiency using the knowledge of the habitat and behavior of the shrimp and the quality of gear materials. Noteworthy are the research works which have been carried out by Robas $(1959)^{9}$, Lee and Matuda $(1973)^{5}$, Imai and Marin $(1978)^{3}$ etc., These contribute much to the knowledge of gear efficiencies and physical characteristics of shrimp trawl gear.

To obtain some fundamental information on the physical characteristics and gear efficiencies of a balloon type Thai shrimp trawl gear where the otter board is designed to be directly rigged to the wing tip of the net, the authors carried out a series of experiments on the reduced scale net in a circular tank. The obtained data will clearify some doubtful information for improvement of the gear.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The shrimp trawl net under investigation was the balloon type single rigged shrimp trawl net. In order to fit the experimental trawl gear in a circular tank, the full scale net was reduced in accordance with Dr. Tauti's comparative method (Tauti, 1934)¹¹). The netting arrangement of the full scale and reduced scale nets are shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, and the particulars of the gears are indicated in Table 1. In making a reduced scale net, similar net construction to the original full scale net was adopted.

Concerning netting material, polyethylene is specified for full scale net construction. Owing to the stiffness of polyethylene fiber however, it is unsuitable for reduced scale net construction. Therefore, nylon netting material was used in the construction of the reduced scale net. In the case of the otter board, polyvinyl chloride material was used instead of wooden board. The experiment was carried out in a circular tank of the Faculty of Fisheries, Kagoshima University.

As shown in Table 2, the ratio between the reduced scale model net (') and the full scale net (") of the experimental trawl net was ascertained to be as follows:

- 1) Reducing scale ratio λ'/λ''
- 2) Ratio of twine diameter and that of mesh size

$$D'/D''=L'/L''=k$$

- 3) Ratio of velocity $V'/V'' = \sqrt{D'/D'' \cdot (\rho' - 1)/(\rho'' - 1)}$
- 4) Ratio of rope diameter

 $\dot{D'}/\dot{D'} = \sqrt{\lambda'/\lambda'' \cdot (\rho_1' - 1)/(\rho_1'' - 1) \cdot V'^2/V''^2}$

5) Ratio of buoyancy and sinker and that of the force acting on the net

$$\mathbf{F}' / \mathbf{F}' = \mathbf{R}' / \mathbf{R}'' = (\lambda'^2 / \lambda''^2). (\mathbf{V}'^2 / \mathbf{V}''^2)$$

Table 1. Summary of the particulars of the experimental shrimp trawl gear.

Particular	Full scale	Reduced scale
 Head rope length (m)	27.63	0.921
Ground rope length (m)	34.55	1.152
Float total buoyancy (kg)	35.00	0.013
Ground rope weight in water (kg)	40.00	0.015
Diameter of warp (mm)	12.00	0.4
Otter board size (m ²)	2.80	3.042×10^{-5}



Figure 1. Net plan of the experimental shrimp trawl net. Numbers in the figure show mesh numbers, bracketed numbers show the mesh sizes (mm).



Figure 2. Net plan of model scale shrimp trawl net used in the experiment. Numbers in the figure show mesh numbers, n-numbers show yarn numbers of a nylon twine and bracketed numbers show mesh sizes (mm). \bigotimes = measuring point

Table 2. The ratio between the model scale (') and the full scale (") of the experimental shrimp trawl net based on Dr. Tauti's comparative method.

Item	Reducing ratio		
λ'/λ"	0.033		
D'/D'' = L'/L''	0.333		
$\mathbf{V}' / \mathbf{V}''$	0.577		
D'_1 / D''_1	0.105		
$F'_1/F''_1 = R'_1/R''_1$	$3.4 imes 10^{-4}$		

Two stages of experiment were carried out. The first stage was to determine the net resistance (Rt) and net shape at different wing tip distances and towing speeds.

Practically, the distance between both wing tips is estimated to be in the range of 60% to 80% of the head rope length for shrimp trawl net (Wada, 1974)¹²⁾. Therefore, for the experiment of model shrimp trawl net, the intervals between both wing tips were designed to be fixed at 40%, 50%, 60% and 70% of the head rope length. The resistance of the net at each fixed wing tip distance was measured at 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5 and 3.0 knots, each reduced in accordance with Dr. Tauti's comparative method.



Figure 3. Schematic drawing of the experimental equipments set in a circular tank for the first stage of the experiment.

1: Model of trawl net	6: Current meter
2: Scale marked concrete floor	7 : Camera (side view)
3:UT gauge	8: Camera (front view)
4: Signal conditioner	9: Camera (top view)
5: Pen recorder	10: Observing windows

In order to avoid the error of water current setting, different pulley position setting was done for each set flow velocity. By using Toko Dentan CM 10 S current meter, the flow velocity was transformed by electrical pulsation and the designed flow velocity could be set accordingly. The experimental model net was set on the scale mark concrete floor of the circular tank and both wing tips were connected to the tension meter system through the movable pulleys (Fig. 3). The tension meter system consists of a UT gauge, signal conditioner (Y E W 3458-10) and flat bed pen recorder (Y E W 3062). The height of each wing tip was fixed with a wooden stick four centimeters in length, as the height of otter board, to keep the height of both wing tips as the same rigging otter boards.

The second stage of the experiment was to determine the net mouth height (H), wing tip distance (W), sweeping area (Sa), projective area of net mouth (An), water filtering volume (Fv), total net resistance (Rt) and otter board resistance (Rob) at different flow velocities.

Since the otter board plane was not available, it was necessary to design a suitable otter board to fit this shrimp trawl net. Using the results obtained from the first stage of experiment and reliable data, the size and weight of otter board was determined from the following equation:

$$L = 1/2C_L \ o \ V^2 \ S$$

Where :

L : Shear force of otter board

 C_L : Shear force coefficient

 ρ : Density of water

V : Towing speed

S: Area of otter board

In order to eliminate the effect of boundary layer that commonly occurs in the



Figure 4. Schematic drawing of the experimental equipment set in a circular tank for the second stage of the experiment.

1: Model of trawl net

- 2: Scale marked wooden board
- 3: UT gauge
- 4: Signal conditioner
- 5: Pen recorder
- 6: Current meter
- 7 : Camera (side view) 8 : Camera (front view) 9 : Camera (top view) 10 : Observing windows 11 : Otter boards

layer about 15 cm just above the floor of the circular tank, a 30 cm elevated scale marked wooden board was used instead of the scale marked concrete floor. The board was placed horizontally inside the tank, then the experimental model net was set on the board. The otter boards were rigged directly to both wing tips and connected to the tension meter system through the movable pulleys (Fig. 4). The total tension of the net was examined at 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, and 3.0 knots as with the first stage of the experiment, each reduced in accordance with Dr. Tauti's comparative method. The warp length and the position of the pulleys were based on the results from the first stage of experiment.

The tension of the experimental model net against the flowing water was measured by UT gauge and recorded by pen recorder. The net shape was determined directly by the measuring scale bar and the towing speed of net was represented by the flow velocity of water against the net. Measurements of the shape of the net at different flow velocities were carried out by reading each measuring point (Fig. 2) on the X, Y, Z coordinate method and checked by photography in three directions.

Knowing the distance between both wing tips and the projective area of the net mouth, it was possible to determine the sweeping area (=distance between both wing tips \times towing speed) and filtering volume (=projective area net mouth \times towing speed) at each flow velocity.

Unless otherwise indicated, the symbols in all figures represent empirical values, and the curves indicate empirical equations.

RESULTS OF THE EXPERIMENTS

A. THE FIRST STAGE OF THE EXPERIMENT

The results of the relationship between the height of net mouth and towing speed at different wing tip distances are examined in graph form as show in Fig. 5. The curves seem to have similar characteristics. The height of the net mouth decreased sharply as the towing speed increased from 0.5 to 1.5 knots and continue to decrease gradually as the towing speed increased over 2.0 knots. The lowest net mouth height for each wing tip distance ranged from 1.68 meters to 1.47 meters as the towing speed increased up to the highest speed.

It is assumed that the height of the net mouth shows an exponential function to towing speed and that all empirical values for each towing speed are represented by the exponential regression equation as follows:

$$H = JV^{m}$$

Where :

H: Height of net mouth (m). V: Towing speed (m/s)

J : Coefficient

m: Index

The "J" and "m" values for each wing tip distance are summarized in Table 3. The back of the second second

Obviously the resistance of the net for each fixed wing tip distance shows a linear relation to the towing speed on the logarithm graph (Fig. 6). The resistance of the



Figure. 5. Observed $(\bigcirc, \land, \blacksquare, \Box)$ and calculated $(---, \dots, --, -)$ values of the height of net mouth (H) in relation to the towing speed (V) as obtained from the first stage of the experiment.







nce (\mathbf{R}_n) at different wing tip distance in relation to respective towing speed (V).

Table 3. The "J" and "m" values in the equation showing the relationship between the height of net mouth and towing speed of shrimp trawl net as calculated from the obtained results of the first stage of the experiment.

$D^*(\mathbf{m})$	9.84	12.29	14.76	17.21	
J	2.05	1.95	1.77	1.62	
m	-0.78	-0.72	-0.65	-0.56	

 D^* = distance between both wing tips

net for each fixed wing tip distance increased in accordance with the increasing towing speed (Fig. 7).

Generally, the resistance of the net is represented by the most practical equation shown as a function of the index value of the towing speed, as follows:

 $R = KV^n$

Where :

- R : Resistance of the net
- V: Towing speed
- K: Coefficient

n: Index

From the above equation the "K" and "n" values were determined for each fixed wing tip distance using a linear regression equation.

Table 4. The "K" and "n" values in the equation showing the relationship between the net resistance and towing speed of experimental shrimp trawl net as calculated from the obtained results of the first stage of the experiment.

D*(m)	9.84	12.29	14.76	17.21
К	476.86	508.31	533.67	564.18
n	1.60	1.53	1.45	1.28

 D^* = distance between both wing tips

As shown in Fig. 8, it is obvious that the net resistance shows the linear relation to wing tip distance and that their relationship can be represented by a linear regression equation as follows:

Where :

R : Resistance of net
W : Wing tip distance
a : Coefficient
b : Constant

 $\mathbf{R} = a\mathbf{W} + b$

The "a" and "b" values were obtained for each towing speed and summarized in Table 5, and the net resistance at each stage of towing speed can be determined at any point between both wing tips.

B. THE SECOND STAGE OF THE EXPERIMENT

Generally, the results resemble those of the first stage of the experiment. As the towing speed accelerated from 0.5 to 1.5 knots, the height of net mouth lowered rapidly from 6.0 meters to 1.8 meters and then gradually decreased to 1.68 meters at 2.5 knots and 1.65 meters at 3.0 knots (Fig. 9).

As in the first stage of the experiment, the height of the net mouth showed an exponential function to the towing speed and that their relationship could be formulated as follows:

 $H = 2.01 V^{-0.76}$(1)

Where :

H: height of net mouth (m)

V: towing speed (m/s)

The distance between the wing tips increased in accordance with increasing towing speed. As shown in Fig. 10 the relationship between wing tip distance and towing speed is linear. The initial wing tip distance was 9.0 meters (32.6% of HR) at 0.5 knots, and gradually increased to 10.05 meters (36.4% of HR), 12.9 meters (46.7% of HR), 14.95 meters (51.0% of HR), 15.6 meters (56.5% of HR) and 16.05 meters (58.1% of HR) as the towing speed was accelerated to 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5 and 3.0 knots respectively.



Figure 8. Relationship between the net resistance and wing tip distance at various towing speeds.

Table 5. The "a" and "b" values in the equation showing the relationship between the net resistance and wing tip distance of the experimental shrimp trawl net as calculated from the obtained results of the first stage of the experiment.

V* (m/s)	0.25	0.51	0.77	1.03	1.28	1.51
а	3.55	2.55	4.34	3.57	10.27	9.31
b	16.27	164.60	261.15	415.84	564.70	658.65

 $V^* = towing speed$

Using a linear regression equation, the wing tip distance can be determined in relation to towing speed from the following equation :

 $W = 5.85 V + 7.6 \dots (2)$

Where :

W: Distance between both wing tips (m)

V: Towing speed (m/s)

As wing tip distance was measured for each stage of towing speed, it was possible



Figure 9. Observed (●) and calculated (-) values of the height of the net mouth (H) of the experimental shrimp trawl net equiped with otter boards in relation to towing speed (V).



Figure 10. Relationship between wing tip distance (W) and towing speed (V) as observed in the second stage of the experiment.







Figure 12. Relationship between net mouth area (A_n) and towing speed (V) as obtained from the second stage of the experiment.

to determine the sweeping area per unit of time by multiplying the value of the distance between both wing tips and towing speed.

Therefore :

$$Sa = WV = (aV + b) V = (5.85 V + 7.6) V \dots (3)$$

Where :

Sa : Sweeping area (m^2/s)

W: Wing tip distance (m)

V : Towing speed (m/s)

a : Coefficient

b : Constant

As shown in Fig. 11 however, the sweeping area shows linear function to towing speed and the relationship can be formulated as follows:



Figure 13. Relationship between filtering volume (Fv) per unit of time and towing speed (V) as obtained from the second stage of the experiment. The broken curve was obtained from equation (6) and the continuous line was obtained from equation (7).

$$Sa = 17.9 V - 3.4 \cdots (4)$$

In other words equation (4) is a simplification of equation (3).

The shape of the projective area of net mouth for each towing speed was drawn on the experimental data of the coordinate values of X and Z for each point measured, and the area of net mouth was determined with the aid of a planimeter. As shown in Fig. 12, at 0.5 knots the initial net mouth area was 39.2 square meters and reduced rapidly to 28.2, 24.03 and 22.0 square meters at 1.0, 1.5 and 2.0 knots respectively. However, as the towing speed increased to 2.5 knots, the area of net mouth increased to 23.6 square meters, and to 24.7 square meters at 3.0 knots. In this case their relationship can be represented by the cubic equation as follows:

 $An = -17.0 V^{3} + 68.4 V^{2} - 86.0 V + 57.0 \dots (5)$

Where :

An: Projective area of net mouth (m^2) V : Towing speed (m/s)

The water filtering volume is defined as the volume of water filtered through the projective area of net mouth per unit of time.

Therefore :

Fv = An Vor $Fv = (-17.0 V^3 + 68.4 V^2 - 86.0 V + 57.0) \times V$(6) Where :



Figure 14. Relationship between the total net resistance (Rt) and towing speed (V) of the experimental shrimp trawl net as obtained from the second stage of the experiment. The initial wing tip distance was set at approximately 70% of the maximum width of the net mouth.

$$Fv = Water$$
 filtering volume (m^3/s)

An = Projective area of net mouth (m^2)

$$V = Towing speed (m/s)$$

The results obtained from the second stage of the experiment show that the water filtering volume varies in accordance with towing speed and that their relationship is nearly linear (Fig. 13). Using a linear regression equation in order to simplify the equation (6), the empirical values can be represented by the following equation :

$$Fv = aV + b$$

= 21.3 V + 3.2....(7)

The total net resistance shows almost linear relation to towing speed as the empirical values were ploted on logarithm graph (Fig. 14). Obviously, the total net resistance increased exponentially to the towing speed. The relationship between total net resistance and towing speed can be represented by the following equation:

$$Rt = K V^{n} = 665.55 V^{1.9}....(8)$$

Where :





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Rt: Total net resistance (kg)

V : Towing speed (m/s)

K : Coefficient

n : Index

The resistance of the bridle, which is very small compared to the net and otter board resistances, is presumably negligible.

Therefore :

Rt = Rn + Rob

In order to compare the results of the first stage to the second stage of the experiment, all conditions influencing gear efficiency must be treated similarly. On the knowledge of the relationship between net resistance and wing tip distance as have been discussed earlier however, it is possible to determine the net resistance for each wing tip distance as in the second stage of the experiment, since the net resistance shows linear relation to wing tip distance at every stage of towing speed (Fig. 8).

As shown in Fig. 15, the relationship between net resistance and towing speed is represented by the following equation :

 $Rn = 449.62 V^{1.5}$(9)

Thus the resistance of otter board can be determined accordingly as:

Rob = Rt - Rn

As shown in Fig. 15, the resistance of the otter board shows exponential function to towing speed and can be formulated as follows:

 $Rob = 141.45 V^{2.0}$(10)

DISCUSSION

The lowest net mouth height, as observed in both stages of the experiment, is assumed to remain constant because the net mouth height has a tendency to be maintained by the height of the otter board and the floats ever at high towing speed. This is the most remarkable characteristic of the shrimp trawl net where the otter board is rigged directly to the wing tip. Shrimp usually embed in muddy or sandy sea bottom or swim just above it. Therefore, it is unnecessary for shrimp trawl nets to have a high net mouth. Miyamoto (1969)⁶ reported on his fishing trial of shrimp trawl net, in India that the design of net should take account of not so much the height of the net mouth as the distance between both wing tips. He also recommended that the height of the net mouth range from 60 cm to 100 cm.

The lowest height of net mouth observed in this study was a bit high. This is probably due to the net construction and excess buoyancy of the floats. Higo $(1970)^{11}$ conducted model net experiments on three types of net and concluded that the factors which affect the height of the net mouth were distance between both wing tips, towing speed and buoyancy. His conclusion was later supported by Nomura et al. $(1977)^{81}$.

The results of wing tip distances as observed in the second stage of experiment show that at towing speed 3.0 knots, the wing tip distance is only 58% of head rope length. Comparatively speaking, it was a bit short because the standard wing tip distance ranges between 65% to 70% of head rope length (Wada, 1974)¹²). This is probably due to the effect of bottom friction and shear force of the otter board. For this

experiment however, the effect of the otter board to the wing tip distance was neglected in the calculation.

In ordinary towing conditions, the sweeping area varies in accordance with the towing speed as long as the distance between both wing tips is rather fixed. In other words, to increase the sweeping area can be done by increasing towing speed. Secondly, the wing tip distance is another factor which affect the sweeping area. As in the case of wing tip distance, a greater sweeping area is expected if an aspect ratio of otter board more than 0.5 or wider otter board is used.

As shown in Fig. 11, the broken and continuous lines were drawn from equation (3) and (4) respectively. The lines seem similar. In other words, equation (4) is a simplification of equation (3) and both equations are suitable for practical calculation.

The projective area of the net mouth, as obtained in the second stage of the experiment, reduced rapidly as the towing speed increased from 0.5 to 2.0 knots. As the towing speed went higher than 2.0 knots however, it had tendency to increase faster. This phenomena could be explained by the fact that the increasing rate of net mouth height at 2.0 knots to 3.0 knots was comparatively low (Fig. 9), whereas the wing tip distance showed an almost constant rate of increase. (Fig. 10).

Generally, the efficiency of trawl gear relates to the filtering volume per unit of time. As shown in Fig. 13, the broken and continuous lines were obtained from equation (6) and (7) respectively. Obviously, they are not similar. In this case, equation (6) is preferable for accurate calculation.

The equation of net resistance is denoted by the exponential function of towing speed and the index value is 1.5. This value is similar to that obtained by Nomura and Yasui (1953)⁷⁾ and Honda (1958)²⁾ on the model experiments of traditional two panel trawl nets where the obtained index values were 1.35-1.40 and 1.30-1.76 respectively. San and Fuwa (1975)¹⁰⁾ conducted model experiments on the four panel shrimp trawl net and obtained the index values of 1.70-1.74 dependent on the wing tip distance. Imai and Marin (1978)³⁾ conducted model experiments on double rigged Mexican shrimp trawl nets and the obtained index value was 1.71. Therefore, the experimental Thai shrimp trawl net is assumed to have characteristics of water resistance similar to that of the traditional two-panel trawl net.

The resistance of the otter board is denoted as a function of the square of the towing speed which is similar to a flat plate in a stream. The percentage of otter board resistance ranges between 7.6%-34.2% to that of total net resistance. This is higher than other experiments conducted at sea by Koyama (1965)⁴ who obtained results showing that the percentage of otter board resistance ranged between 15.2% - 29.8% of the total net resistance. This is probably due to the large attack angle of the otter board against the flowing water. In the experiments, the attack angle was planned at 25 degrees, but the observed results as checked from photographs and measurements, ranged between 32 degree to 38 degree. Therefore, otter board bridle length adjustment must be taken into consideration in order to set a small attack angle.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The fundamental characteristics of the four seam shrimp trawl net, from experiments

conducted in a circular tank, revealed that the lowest net mouth height was 1.65 meters; the broadest wing tip distance was 58.0% of head rope length as obtained at towing speed 3.0 knots. As for sweeping area and filtering volume, the bigger values were obtained as the towing speed was accelerated higher.

The projective area of net mouth became smaller at higher towing speed, but had a tendency to increase at towing speeds higher than 2.0 knots.

The characteristics of net resistance are similar to that of traditional two-seam nets and it is considered better than other four-panel nets. Owing to the wider attack angle, the resistance of the otter board increased tremendously at high towing speeds.

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