

Reports

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Hybrid fish capturing device "FCD" for capturing live Flounder: Final Report

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FINAL REPORT
Hybrid fish capturing device "FCD" for capturing live Flounder

This report contains all of the catch data, and information, collected during the spring flounder season trial period of 2010, on Virginia's Eastern Shore.

The purpose of this project was to determine if a device to capture live flounder could be designed and built, to catch effectively. Six FCD's were constructed, two each, of three different funnel designs. The three types of FCD,s were then placed in the water, on april 1st 2010, at three different locations. The FCD,s were fished, once per day, for 60 days. The locations were rotated, to give each type of funnel an equal chance. The type of funnels are as follows, # 1 and 2 were horizontal 2" x 12", # 3 and 4 were inverted elliptical funnels, " stretched in the horizontal direction" and # 5 and 6 were conventional finger funnels " vertical stretched".

The most Effective of the three designs were #'s 1 and 2, the 2" x 12" horizontal funnel. The least effective was the conventional finger funnels, #'s 5 and 6. The length of the leaders was relative to the catch rate. Early in the project 100' was the normal length, it became evident, that 200' worked much better.

Fouling was a serious problem early in April. On the Seaside we have a filamentous algae that we call, *Sturr*. It sticks to everything that it comes in contact with, causing the leaders to collapse and stop working. A pressure washer was installed onboard, and used daily. As the water warmed, this condition ceased to be much of a problem.

May and early June was the peak of the season. On a good day 10 to 20 fish could be caught from the FCD's. Towards the end of June, Cownosed rays, Butterfly rays and all types of stingrays were a real serious problem, and took much more time to work each FCD safely.

I have determined that a horizontal funnel is best for flounder, and am now changing all to this design. I have spoken to several fishermen about construction of these, and I am offering hands on building instructions to help if needed. I think with a little more experimenting, this could be a lucrative way to pursue the live fish market.

I am including drawings to help with the construction of the frames. The funnels are the key component in the traps ability to catch properly. This is all hand sewn, I would be happy to give detailed verbal instructions, as a drawing, this would be hard to understand.

april

trap	1	2	3	4	5	6
1st	0	0	0	0	0	0
2nd	0	0	0	2	0	0
3rd	1	2	2	0	1	0
4th	1	3	1	1	0	2
5th	0	2	1	0	0	0
6th	5	0	3	0	2	1
7th	4	3	1	1	1	1
8th	5	1	1	0	0	0
9th	1	0	0	1	0	0
11th	3	1	1	4	0	2
12th	5	2	0	1	1	2
13th	1	4	0	2	0	2
14th	3	2	1	5	2	2
15th	2	3	1	2	3	0
16th	3	4	3	1	0	0
17th	5	2	2	1	2	2
18th	4	7	2	4	1	2
19th	5	3	0	2	0	0
20th	6	3	1	4	0	1
21st	3	0	0	2	0	0
22nd	5	7	3	2	0	3
23rd	0	0	0	0	1	0
24th	1	0	0	0	0	0
25th	3	2	2	2	0	3
26th	4	6	3	2	1	3
27th	6	2	2	5	0	3
28th	7	2	1	4	1	2
29th	3	9	5	0	2	0
30th	8	3	5	4	0	3

MAY	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	
1st		6	3	2	0	3	0
2nd		7	0	2	4	1	2
3rd		0	0	1	0	3	1
4th		1	0	0	0	0	0
5th		2	0	0	0	0	1
6th		4	3	2	0	1	0
7th		3	3	4	0	3	1
8th		2	7	1	3	2	0
9th		1	1	0	0	0	2
10th		4	2	0	2	1	2
11th		4	3	1	2	0	2
12th		5	3	2	1	0	0
13th		4	1	1	2	1	4
14th		3	3	1	0	0	0
15th		5	4	2	0	1	2
16th		3	3	0	2	3	0
17th		8	1	0	0	0	1
18th		6	3	2	0	0	4
19th		3	3	1	2	1	0
20th		5	8	2	0	3	0
21st		2	1	0	0	0	0
22nd		1	5	3	1	1	3
23rd		0	0	0	2	0	0
24th		2	1	3	2	1	0
25th		6	5	3	0	2	0
26th		11	4	2	5	2	1
27th		6	2	2	5	5	0
28th		2	7	4	4	5	0
29th		5	7	3	0	0	4
30th		3	5	2	6	2	3
31st		11	0	4	0	0	2

JUNE

TRAP #	1	2	3	4	5	6
1st	2	5	2	0	0	3
2nd	4	5	3	2	1	1
3rd	5	2	2	0	1	2
4th	11	3	3	1	2	2
5th	4	2	1	0	0	0
6th	5	7	3	2	2	1
7th	4	7	1	1	1	1
8th	5	1	1	0	0	0
9th	1	0	0	1	0	0
11th	3	7	4	4	0	2
12th	5	4	0	1	1	2
13th	1	4	0	2	0	2
14th	14	2	1	5	2	2
15th	8	3	3	2	3	0
16th	11	4	3	1	0	0
17th	5	2	2	1	2	2
18th	4	7	2	4	1	2
19th	5	3	0	2	0	0
20th	6	3	1	4	0	1
21st	3	0	0	2	0	0
22nd	5	7	3	2	0	3
23rd	0	0	0	0	1	0
24th	1	0	0	0	0	0
25th	3	2	2	2	0	3
26th	4	6	3	2	1	3
27th	6	2	2	5	0	3
28th	7	2	1	4	1	2
29th	3	9	5	0	2	0
30th	8	3	5	4	0	3

NOT TO SCALE
all 3/8 round stock
covered w/ 4" x #15

24" Diagonal Brace

Funnel
starts @ 2nd Frame
+ goes to Third Frame

48"

24"

24"

Hinged
Back
Door

32" 32" 32"
96"

