

Atty 8/2600

2010-010-00013

Dear

FRCC

As a fisherman I am always trying to think of ways to help the fishery and keep it around for years to come. One of these ways is to come up with better gear that will target the intended catch and greatly reduce bycatch.

A piece of gear that will be smart is a type of gear to catch cod and other fish similar to the old fashioned capelin trap and cod trap with the leader coming from the shore or leading from the shoal. This leader mesh will be 7 inches to allow smaller fish, salmon, or other species to pass through. If salmon did follow the leader towards the trap opening there would be salmon deflectors on the trap corners running 45 degrees to the leader. These would be a fathom deep and the salmon would follow this deflector and pass around the trap because the salmon swim near the surface and the cod would swim under the deflector and go into the trap. Also, the traps could have roofs on them and they would be sunk about a fathom below the surface and again if the salmon follow the leader they would pass over the trap.

A grate could be added to the back of the trap which will allow the smaller fish to escape. This type of gear will help the environment in other ways as well. There will be less fuel burned and less emission. Also there will be less gear loss and less disturbance of the ocean floor.

This type of trap would get more fishermen involved and offer them many benefits including:

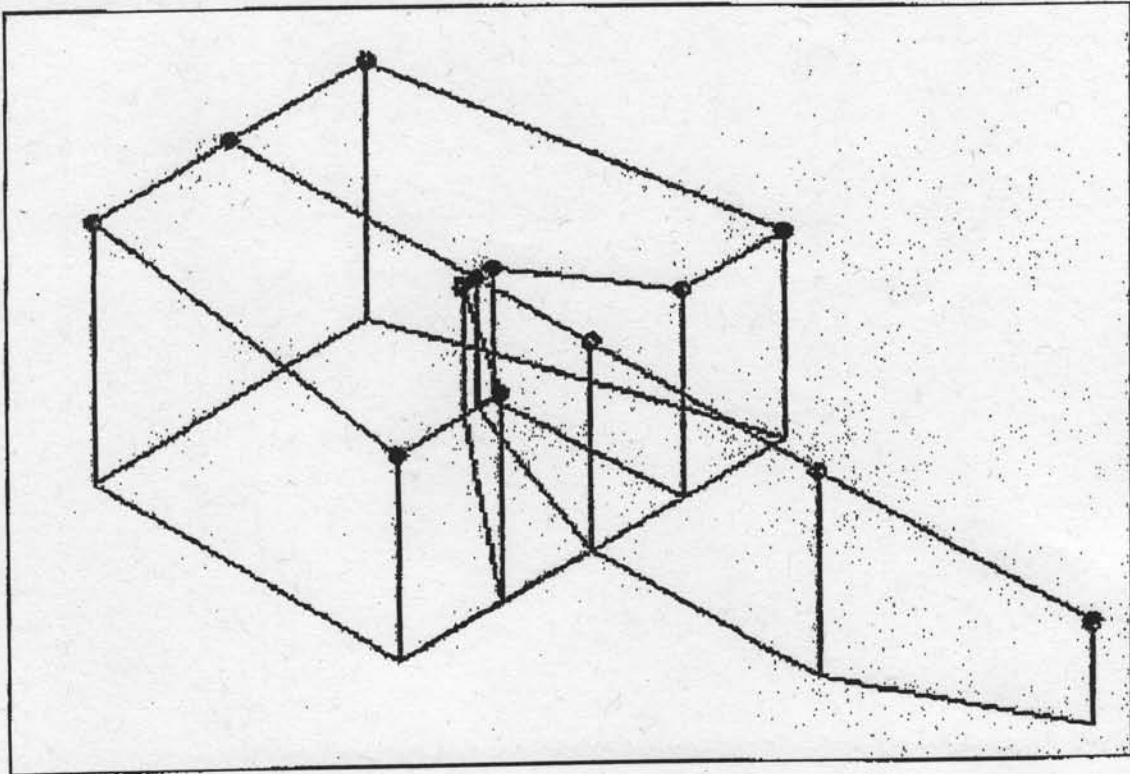
- Allowing them to combine quotas, using this one type of trap and making their fishing ventures worthwhile.
- The fish could be put in cages alive which would allow fisherman to choose the fish that are market size, it would also provide an opportunity for fisherman to auction off their catch and obtain the best price possible.
- This would also allow the fish that are undersize and the large breeders to be set free to return to the waters to conserve the fishery.
- Another positive aspect of this type of trap is that it would allow the fisherman to provide the cod with a proper diet of herring which will in turn increase their market value; these traps will work well because they would be set during capelin season when the cod are near the shore to feed on capelin.

This type of smart gear will benefit the fisherman, the ecosystem and the many many animals and fish that suffer every year from getting tangled in nets. It would just lead to a better earth friendly fishery.

Sincerely,

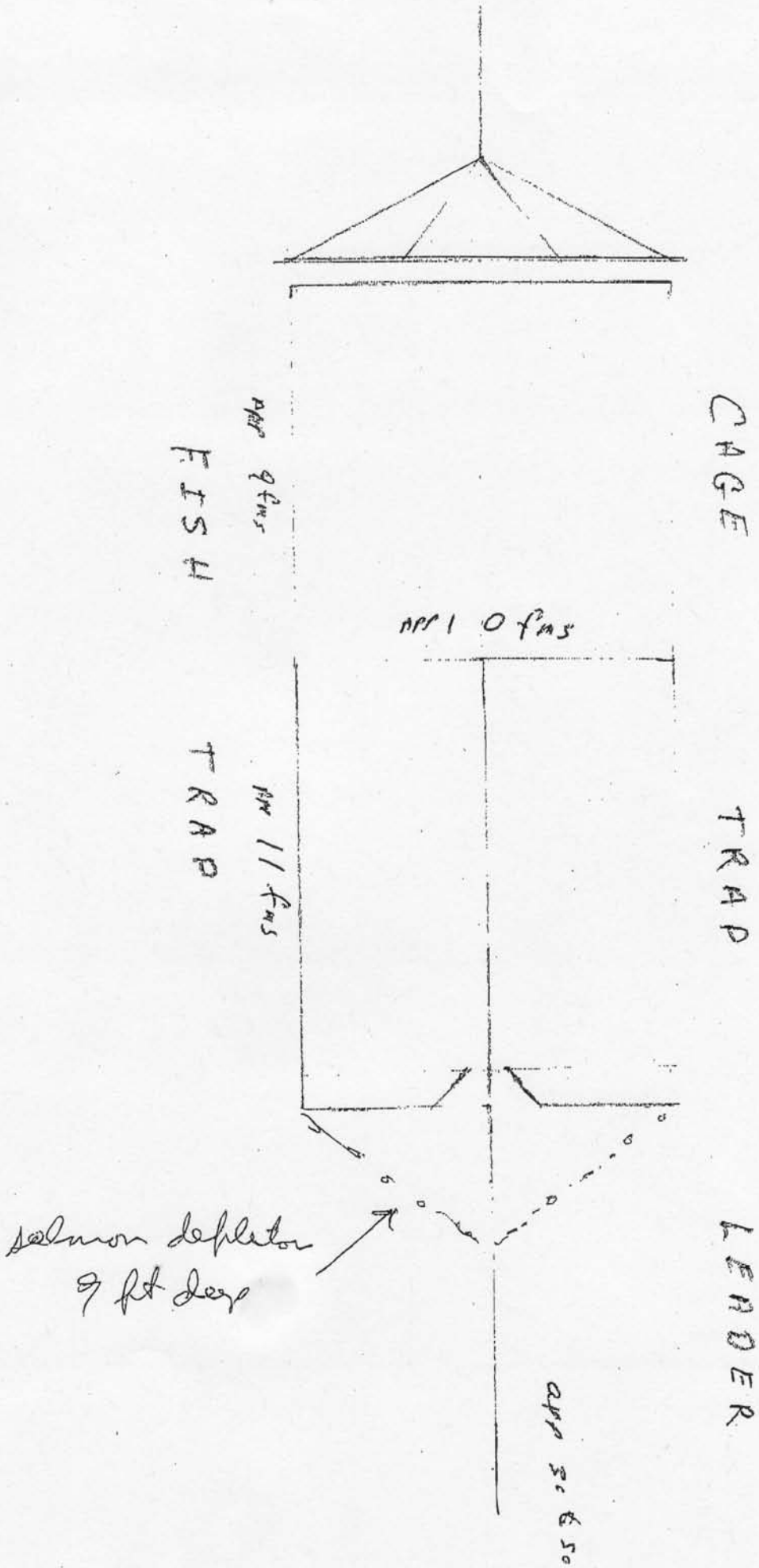
Eugene Caines





- ① add salmon deflectors 9 ft deep
45° to the leader.
- ② use caplin mesh or trap material to
make trap longer to the back
- ③ add four by eight escape grate, etc.

TOP VIEW
TRAP AND CAGE TO BE ADDED



BIGGER FISH, BETTER RETURNS

Port Saunders fisherman believes in future of cod farming

BY BRIAN SCOTT / STAFF WRITER

A fisherman from Port Saunders, Eugene Caines, says he doesn't understand why more fishermen don't get involved in farming cod.

"It's a win-win situation," he said. "I don't know why they slaughter fish. It outweighs the hook and line and gillnets by far. You have live fish, you can select your fish, let the small ones go, and let the breeders go. If buyers want 25-inch fish, you can bring them in live and put them in those cages for a week or two. I've brought my fish in alive into the wharf and the buyers from Fishery Products look at them and say they'll take them."

Cod farms first began appearing in the province when the cod moratorium was introduced in 1993. It is a process where cod is caught, contained in pens, and fed by farmers. The end result, according to Mr. Caines, is higher quality, bigger, and more marketable fish.

"You get flawless fish. You get tablecloth fish, as they're called, that the high-scale restaurants and airlines want. They're flawless because they're in this cage; they're fed regularly and they don't compete for the feed."

"We slaughter them after about 80 days. They double their weight, and we double our price too. Other fishermen were getting 70 cents a lb, and I was getting \$1.50 for mine; plus I had some nice fat juicy filets."

Mr. Caines first tried cod farming in 1999. He had hoped to be catching cod for his farms earlier this spring, but a dispute between gillnet fishermen on the Northern Peninsula and the Fish, Food and Allied Workers' (FFAW) union postponed the opening of the Gulf cod fishery and forced Mr. Caines to put his plans on hold.

"They don't give me a quota without the competitive fishery



Port Saunders fisherman Eugene Caines holds a fishing grate attached to one of his cod farm pens. The four by eight foot grate allows small fish to escape the traps.

opened up," he said. "I was hoping they would have some leniency towards the 'fishery of the future'; as it was called, when I got involved with it."

He added that the late start to the fishery has also hurt him because of resources for feeding and catching the cod. Had the fishery been open earlier, Mr. Caines would have had access to more capelin and herring, that has since been disposed of, to use as bait and food for his cod.

Other fishermen are reluctant to farm cod, Mr. Caines said, because farmed fish provide income only when a sale is made after the fish have been growing over a period of time, and not

on a weekly basis.

"As long as they are making a bit of a weekly pay at the gillnets and hook and line, they won't venture into something like this. If the fishery wasn't open, I'd have no problem getting a few extra enterprises to help me out and joining me in this venture."

"They see their money at the end of the week and that's how they look at it. I would pay somebody to help me as long as I had my fish caught, but it's getting the resources. If I had the money or some project to get it started and get a good success story going, then I'd get a crew to stay with me and they'd see the light at the end of the tunnel."

Cod farming has also had its own number of disputes. Some fishermen have argued that traps used to catch cod also trap salmon. However, Mr. Caines said that problem has since been rectified.

"I have salmon deflectors made up and attached to the trap so salmon deflects away from the trap. Salmon is a surface swimmer. Codfish is a deeper water swimmer. They swim under the deflector and go into the trap."

Lobster fishermen on the Northern Peninsula experienced a difficult season this year. In addition to poor landings, fishermen had lobster pots damaged or destroyed by storms in May. Mr. Caines said the depleted lobster stocks may provide an opportunity to get more people involved in farming cod.

"It's only because of the lobsters that myself and a lot more people are still here. Lobsters are our salvation right now and this year with the storms and the low catches, I'm hoping this here will take off."

"We need more people at it. We need more fish. People could work together and you can make the market more appetizing for the buyers to come in."

Raleigh-Ship Cove residents can't call GRHs for ambulance service

BY BRIAN SCOTT / STAFF WRITER

Residents of Raleigh and Ship Cove are questioning why changes are being made to their ambulance service.

or son is on the floor and there's an emergency, I'm getting more confused as I wait," Mr. Smith added. "Then I'm supposed to call somewhere else in case there's a failure."

department and ambulance service.

"As soon as their message is left, the person in charge calls the household that called for the emergency service and is asking what the problem

about the level of trained ambulatory staff at St. Lunaire-Griquet. "We have no problem with the ambulance coming from St. Lunaire-Griquet, but I understand

Seeking new in a troubled f

Fisherman faces many hurdles before h

By AARON BESWICK / STAFF WRITER

For over a century the Northern Peninsula's fishermen have had to think creatively to survive in an often troubled industry.

Forces of nature and economics have led fishermen to rethink and regear - the cod fishery alone evolved from hook and line, to cod traps, to longliners and gillnets.

With only a small quota, 3,000 lbs. of cod per week for six weeks, and skyrocketing fuel prices, Port Saunders' Eugene Caines is looking back to move forward.

The fisherman has redesigned the cod trap to significantly reduce bycatch while reducing his fuel and crew costs.

Mr. Caines submitted his proposal to the World Wildlife Foundation's Smart Gear con-

"It would be one-stop fishing - you could wait until there are at least 18,000 lbs. in the trap and get your entire quota in one haul ..."

- Eugene Caines

test last year and while he hasn't received word on how his design stacked up, he wants to test it.

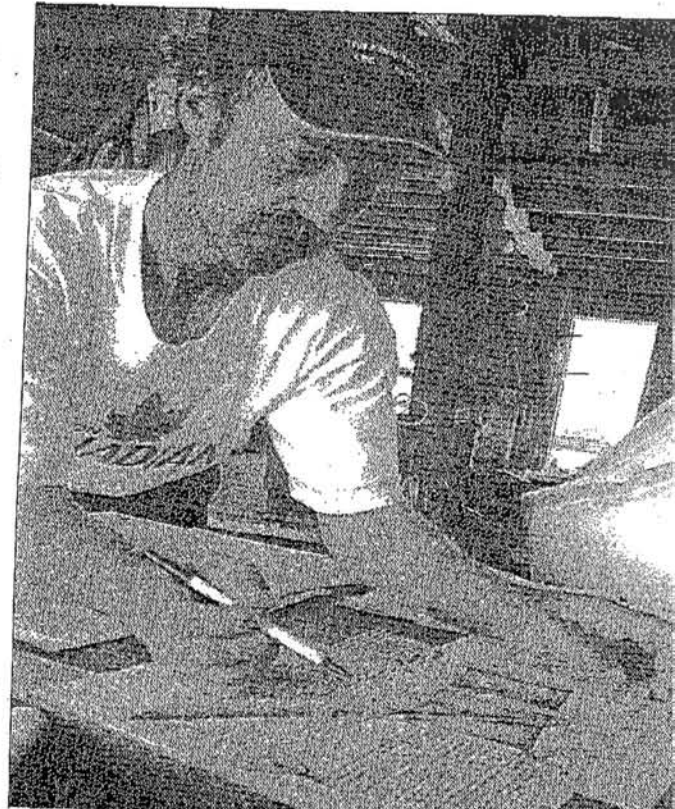
"The cod trap was condemned as an option before largely because of salmon bycatch," said Mr. Caines. "But with this design you'd have practically no bycatch and you could live release fish in your trap. Also, the technology was all tested and proven during the cod grow-out program in 2000."

Mr. Caines' design calls for the cod trap to be made of capelin trap mesh, so when the trap is hauled fish don't get stuck in the netting. The leader to the trap is a seven inch mesh, so smaller fish such as salmon swim right through undiverted. As well, salmon deflectors block the top nine feet of the trap entrance, preventing the surface swimming salmon from entering the trap while the deeper swimming cod head into the trap.

"It would be one-stop fishing - you could wait until there are at least 18,000 lbs. in the trap and get your entire quota in one haul, rather than heading out the harbour and hauling your gillnets twice a day for six weeks," said Mr. Caines.

"You'd save on fuel, labour and wear and tear."

Cod in the trap could be fed fish offal until the trap was full.



Port Saunders fisherman Eugene Caines has designed a cod trap that he argues would reduce bycatch while saving money on fuel and labour. But he faces significant hurdles before being allowed to test it.

Once full, the fishermen could drive the cod into a cage and haul it right to the wharf.

"The markets in Europe are looking for 'white tablecloth fish', which is bruiseless and has no blood stains," said Mr. Caines. "With the cage at the wharf, buyers could ship it live if they wanted or the fish could be slaughtered at the wharf."

While Mr. Caines has all the gear necessary to try the trap, he faces major regulatory hurdles.

Currently, fishermen are only allowed to catch 3,000 lbs.

weekly for six weeks and aren't allowed to share gear. As well, cod traps aren't allowed.

However Judy Dwyer, of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) enforcement division, said regulations can be changed.

"The groundfishery is governed by conservation harvesting plans, which are done in consultation between the union and DFO," said Ms. Dwyer. "If there's a proposal for new gear out there, you first want to be sure it does what you claim it

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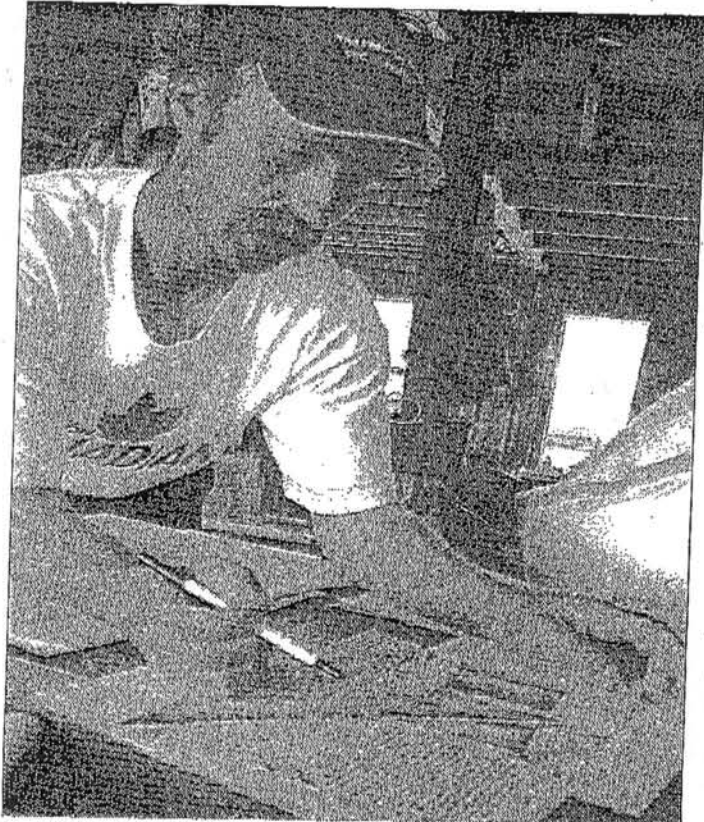
Eddies Cove East - Castor River South

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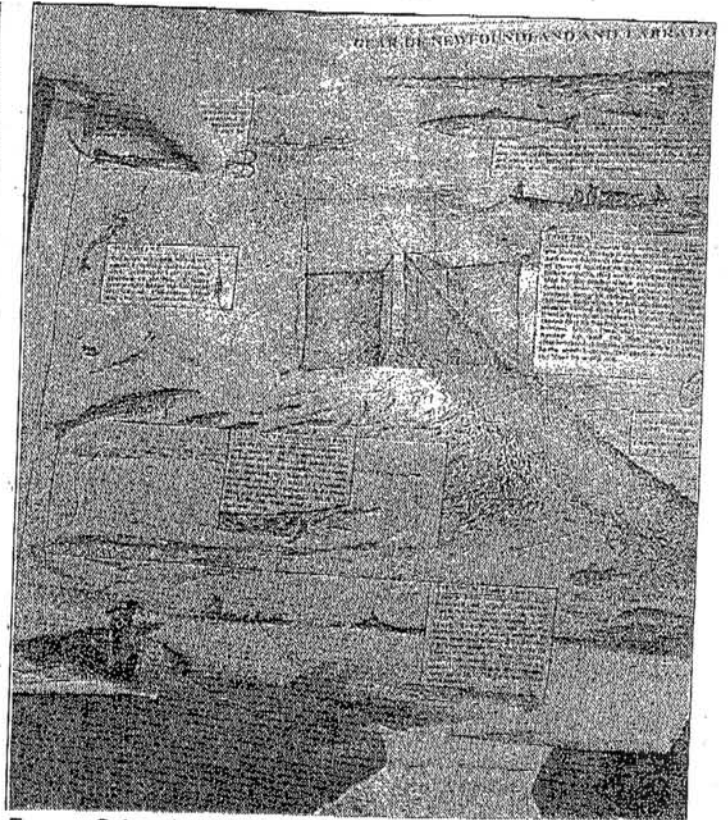
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Seeking new options for troubled fishery

He faces many hurdles before he can test new gear



Port Saunders fisherman Eugene Caines has designed a cod trap that he argues would reduce bycatch while saving money on fuel and labour. But he faces significant hurdles before being allowed to test it.



Eugene Caines holds a diagram of an old Newfoundland cod trap. Mr. Caines' design would include salmon deflectors, a leader with seven-inch mesh and a trap made with capelin mesh, all meant to prevent bycatch.

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does and that's where the Marine Institute comes in."

Ms. Dwyer said that research done in Sweden on salmon deflectors and by DFO on how increased mesh size on cod trap leaders would reduce small fish bycatch, appears to backup Mr. Caines argument.

"But with individual quotas so low, the traps are often seen as too efficient."

Hence the need to allow multiple licences to fish one trap - another regulatory hurdle.

"My advice would be to take the proposal to Centre for Sustainable Aquatic Resources at the Marine Institute and have the gear tested," said Ms. Dwyer. "Then before any changes could be made to the conservation harvesting plans we'd have to consult extensively with other fishers."

The Pen contacted Memorial University's Bonne Bay Marine Centre at Norris Point, to see if they'd be interested in teaming up with Mr. Caines to test the new gear.

"We'd certainly be interested," said station director Bob Hooper, who intends to call Mr. Caines to further explore the idea.

In the meantime Mr. Caines has been attempting to drum up support for his idea while struggling to survive in the small boat fishery.

"I've talked to Icwater, a buyer from Arnold's Cove, and they like the idea and Roland Hedderson in the union liked it too," said Mr. Caines. "I'm just trying to find another option for fishermen, not trying to get rid of any of the other gear methods."

