

Precision Seafood Harvesting

Quarter 1 2012/13 (July - Sept 2012)

The programme is progressing as planned. The technical effort is divided into two main areas; testing and development of improvements to the harvesting and handling technologies, validating any improvements by providing suitable benchmarks and data collection methods for incorporation into the programme.

A new modular harvesting design prototype has been developed and made ready for testing at the start of October. The design parameters that provide for the escape of unintended catch (eg. fish of the wrong size or species) are continually being assessed for their relative performance characteristics. The ability to reduce fatigue in fish that are caught is also important. Reduced fatigue improves the quality of the catch to the consumer. Video is being used to observe fish behaviours at the different escapements and this will follow through to modifications in the target fisheries on vessels.

Prototype technologies in handling and storage systems, which will work in tandem with the new harvesting system prototype, have been designed to improve fish retrieval and storage. The improvements have begun testing and will be examined over the subsequent fishing trials.