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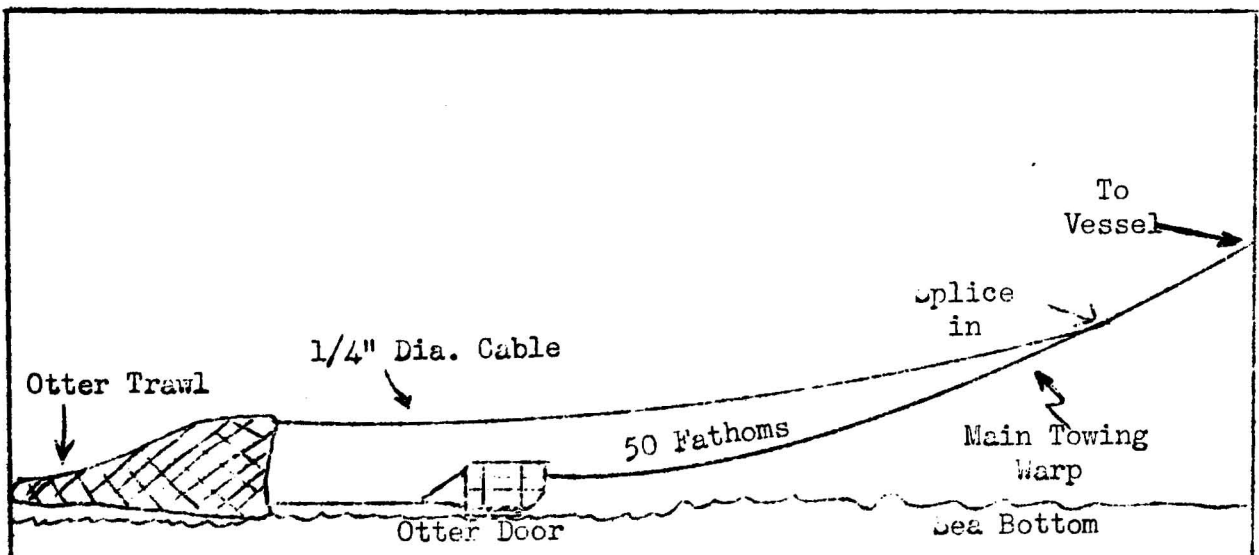
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NEW RIG FOR HIGH OPENING OTTER TRAWL

By Division of Commercial Fisheries

A new idea in rigging an otter trawl has been reported in use on the Pacific Coast dragger "Kiska". First reports on the operation of this gear which was designed by Capt. Ralph Horne indicated that it has been successfully used in catching rockfish in Pacific waters, and that additional gear of this type is being constructed. The net was built for deep water fishing and rigged in a manner to allow a higher opening than can be obtained on any of the nets in common use now. It should be particularly suitable for very deep water fishing in that the new rig makes it possible to operate the net without headrope floats that usually give trouble under the tremendous pressure of deep water.

The headrope is held up to the full height of the net by splicing into each of the main towing warps, 50 fathoms up from the door, a quarter-inch diameter barage balloon cable. The other end of each of these light cables is then secured to the respective ends of the headrope at the corners of the net. The upward sweep of the warps towards the surface serves to keep the headrope up and the net open. The doors by means of the door log lines are attached to the footrope only. This is a real departure from the customary rig. The diagram below illustrates Capt. Horne's method of rigging the warps.



Although specific details on the construction of the net are not available, it is certain that the net must be built with an extra large width of heavy wedge and with plenty of height on the wings to give it fullness. The otter trawl designed by Capt. Horne stands 36 feet high on the sides of the wings which allows the headrope to rise a considerable distance off the bottom. The headrope rides out in front of the footrope about 60 meshes at the midpoint.