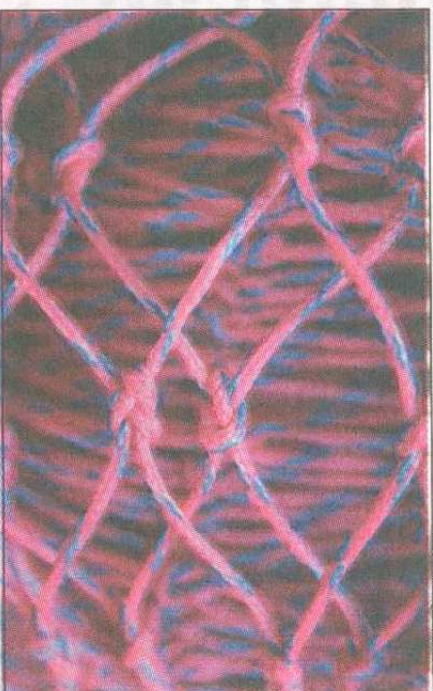


Netting cuts drag in nephrops trawls

LE DREZEN'S BrezTop netting has shown its value in France where it has become popular for the top panels of nephrops trawls since its introduction last year.

Le Drezzen's Pierre Le Brun says that BrezTop offers the same breaking strength as standard green PE, but with a smaller twine diameter. This results in the lower drag that nephrops trawler operators in Brittany in particular have been taking advantage of. With a twine size range of 1.20 to 4 mm, the 3 and 4 mm sizes have sold well in France and, in the UK, 1.20 mm has been taken up for squid fishing.

Ian King, the Fraserburgh-based UK manager for Le Drezzen, says: "It's still early days, but fishermen are very happy with BrezTop and it seems to be fishing well. "The squid season started a month or so ago



Le Drezzen's BrezTop netting is known in Canada as Barbie Line due to its pink colour.

and catches are still small due to weather conditions, but this should improve shortly. We will have a better idea of the results in a few months' time."

BrezTop has also been introduced to the Canadian market, where the pink colour of the netting earned it the nickname Barbie Line during its first season

there, says Le Drezzen's Christine Perrot.

"With fuel prices at the levels they are today, net manufacturers have to do everything they can to reduce the drag of nets to give customers whatever fuel savings can be achieved, while retaining the original breaking strength – and BrezTop fits the bill," she says. Pierre Le Brun explains

that some high tenacity twines have drawbacks in that their resistance to abrasion is compromised. He reports that studies have shown some high-strength twines to have a lower breaking strength at the knot.

He tells *FNi*: "We have got around these disadvantages by using top-quality high tenacity granules and by adapting the extrusion process, as well as the elasticity and diameter of the monofilaments.

"The result of a lot of research and development is a finely-tuned balance in that BrezTop has both excellent breaking strength at the knot and the same abrasion resistance as standard green PE. "It's a perfect partner product to our Brez Line netting and BrezTop is now starting to sell itself," he adds.



Le Drezzen's Christine Perrot with a sheet of BrezTop netting.