

# Third French seiner's easy-to-handle net

LIKE the new French tuna purse seiners *Trevignon* and *Glenan*, the third in the trio *Dreznec* is also to fish with a Le Drezen tuna purse seine.

This net has been designed by Le Drezen's Louis Le Brun in co-operation with *Dreznec's* skipper.

"*Trevignon* and *Glenan* are doing well with their gear," says Louis Le Brun.

"Rather than going for maximum size, both skippers wanted gear that would be easily handled so that they could deploy it quickly. Both of these purse seines are performing well and their actual performance is very close to what was predicted by the simulation."

As well as purse seines for these new vessels, Le



**Louis Le Brun, Le Drezen's purse seine designer who uses a simulator to confirm his ideas.**

Drezen's net loft has been busy with other purse seine gear this year and has two more sets of gear to deliver to the tuna seiners *Abel Vad* and *Cap St Vincent* by the end of this year.

*Dreznec's* purse seine, which was in production when *FNI* visited Le Drezen, as always relies heavily on information available from the company's own digital purse seine simulator.

This purse seine has been optimised to suit the skipper's requirements and is made entirely in Le Drezen's own nylon netting: 110 mm (half mesh) netting is used in the main body of the gear, with 55 mm (half mesh) in the top strips, in 5 mm, 4 mm and finally 5 mm twine in the 25-

mesh deep guards. To optimise sinking speed, 150 mm (half mesh) netting has been used in the lowest sections of the seine to give the best filtration.

Louis Le Brun adds that a great deal of effort goes into achieving the best ratio of twine size and mesh size to maximise filtration.

"A bigger mesh size with heavier twines gives a better water filtration than small meshes in fine twines," he says.

"This year has been busy for the purse seine side of the business and we have been working with this kind of gear all through the year. Now we are looking at the possibility of setting up a base in the Indian Ocean as a repair facility."

Customers are looking for better after-sales service and, although Le Drezen frequently sends staff to Indian Ocean ports to work on gear there when necessary, a permanent presence in the Seychelles would give the fleet access to a higher level of service and a stock of netting and equipment.

## Small boat seines get bigger!

LE DREZEN has been developing its small boat gears used along the French Atlantic coast.

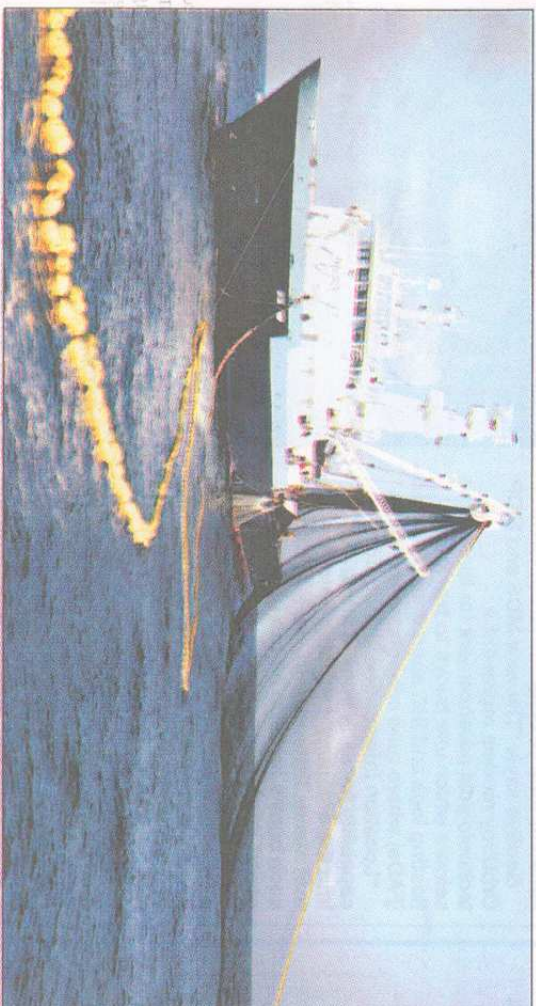
"This has been very successful with a lot of orders – more than ten this year," says the company's Louis Le Brun.

He tells *FNI* that the purse seine design was expanded by 25% in both length and depth. A slightly larger mesh size and thicker twines made this possible, resulting in a longer net, giving a larger diameter as well as a greater fishing depth.

11 mm (half mesh) is used in parts of the gear. 10 mm (half mesh) is used in the bag and, in some sections, a larger mesh size of 15 mm (half mesh) has been used.

This provides better water filtration and allows the gear to be pursued more quickly and easily. The gear is made in twisted nylon netting throughout.

"We used the digital simulator to design the gear and to convince skippers of some of



***Trevignon*, delivered earlier in the year, fishing with a Le Drezen tuna purse seine which *Dreznec* will also operate with when she is delivered.**

the purse seiners from St Guenole and Concarneau of what we were trying to do.

"The gear is 25% longer and deeper, which is a big increase, and it also gives the

gear a much greater volume while still filtering water efficiently," he says.

Normally Louis Le Brun has a good idea if something new is going to work and then the

simulator confirms this.

"What we see in the simulator is normally very close to the way the finished gear performs under real conditions – and that's what happened here. The first skipper to have one of these nets was very successful straight away and we had a string of orders for these purse seines after that."