



On the deck of the Jamie Marie after a 40 minute tow that produced 12,000 pounds of shrimp.

Trawl doors:

- Thyboron Type 2, 104" for bottom trawling
- Net System Series 2000 mid-water trawl doors, 5.5 meter
- Net System alloy mid-water door, 9 meter for the shrimp net

"Net Systems trawl door designer Bob Mennucci has been working with me to identify what characteristics a trawl door would need to spread my shrimp net at a very slow speed – under 2 knots.

"We have decided to try an older style of mid-water door with less camber and no vents, as Bob thinks this would have a better water flow at low speed. Also, I will need a door twice the size as normal for a 1,000-hp vessel because of the slow speed.

"Bob has a set of 9 meter alloy mid-water doors that I will adapt a four-chain pull on the front, like a wood door, for stability," Downs said.

Trawl sensors: Notus Electronics Trawl Master

"I met Notus Marketing Manager Francis Parrot at the Jensen Communications electronics show in April of 2009, and I have not looked at trawling the same since Francis opened my eyes to the worldwide cooperation within the industry to develop more economic and eco-friendly ways to trawl and gain a better understanding of what is happening on the ocean floor.

"I was not aware that there were places on the Internet a fisherman could go to look for answers to some of the more elusive questions in trawling. The trawl sensors Notus provided me with, and the instructions Francis gave me on how to apply them, have proved indispensable in increasing our catch per unit effort by 30 percent.

"In the Pacific whiting fishery, fishing to maintain door spread seems to be the dominant factor. Bottom trawling wire length appears to be the most important variable for door stability. With my new shrimp net, after one trip of constant adjustments, the best spread I could get on my shrimp net was 83 feet. The shrimp gear should have a door spread of 210 feet. I brought the net back to the dock and started looking for better ways to spread the net.

"I have decided – after talking to Bob McLwaine at Cantrawl Nets and looking at some of the experiments he has done with pulling on the center of the head rope to increase spread – that I would try this, along with Net Systems slow 9-meter door.

"Francis is going to help me reconfigure my Notus sensors to show a true representation of what the three bridles are doing. I don't think this could be done without the Notus sensors," Downs said.

Chart system:

- Coastal Explorer 2009
- Nobeltec Navigation 9.2
- Olex 7.18
- P-sea Windplot II for Windows 7.19

VMS: Faria WatchDog

Electronics:

"Most of the electronics, and all of the new electronics, were purchased from and serviced by Jensen Communications of Warrenton. Jensen has been handling all of my electronic needs for the last six years," Downs said.

Sounders:

- Furuno FCV -261 color video sounder
- Furuno FCV-1100L color LCD sounder
- Furuno CH-12 sonar

Radio(s) and servicing:

- Two Icom ICM-504VHF transceivers
- One Icom IC-2100H transceiver
- One Icom ICM802 SSB transceiver
- Standard Horizon loud hailer VLH 3000
- Simrad PI32 catch monitor
- Fruno CN10B head rope sounder
- Icom automatic antenna tuner AT-140
- Bridge Watch monitor

Radar: Furuno NavNet Radar

GPS: Three Furuno GPS WAAS Navigator units

Autopilot: Simrad AP50

Weather service: WeatherWorks

Galley equipment:

- GE 4 burner AC range with oven and sea rails
- Maytag side/side refrigerator/freezer
- GE microwave oven
- 19" Broksonic TV/VCR player recorder
- Whirlpool stacked clothes washer and dryer in main head

Galley provision retailers: Ted's Red Apple grocery, Westport; Costco warehouse

Fire suppression system: One 120-pound CO2 fixed system in engine room with remote control and automatic; two each 15-pound CO2 systems, 10-pound and five-pound chemical portables located in proper locations.

Hatches: Freeman Hatches

Buyer: Ocean Gold Seafoods, Washington Crab Producers, Pacific Coast Seafoods

Survival suits: Stearns

Life rafts: Switlik six-person

EPIRB: Alden Satfind 406 MHz EPIRB

Safety equipment retailers: Englund Marine Supply

Knives: Victorinox

"We buy Victorinox knives by the box and use them for everything from screwdrivers to paint scrapers. They also make a great cutting tool," Downs said. ♪