

Depth-controller

The depth of certain underwater fishing equipment can be precisely regulated by a depth-controller recently developed for the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries (BCF).

A patent for the device has been granted Dr. Timothy Fohl of Mt. Auburn Research Associates, Inc., of Cambridge, Mass.

The depth-controller was developed under contract with BCF to provide a system for rapid and accurate remote control of midwater trawls and other towed fishing equipment.

Either upward or downward lift is produced by cylindrical rotorwing devices turned by submersible electric motors mounted directly on the fishing gear.

Research and development was supervised by the Bureau's Exploratory Fishing and Gear Research Base at Gloucester, Mass.

One-half scale rotor-wing trawl doors have been successfully tested; however, full-sized operational rotor-wing units have not yet been constructed or evaluated for application to commercial fishing.

Domestic title is held by the Government and licenses to manufacture the depth-controller may be obtained by qualified applicants on an essentially royalty-free basis by application to the Office of the Solicitor, Department of the Interior.

Further information may be obtained from the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Exploratory Fishing and Gear Research Base, State Fish Pier, Gloucester, Mass. 01930.