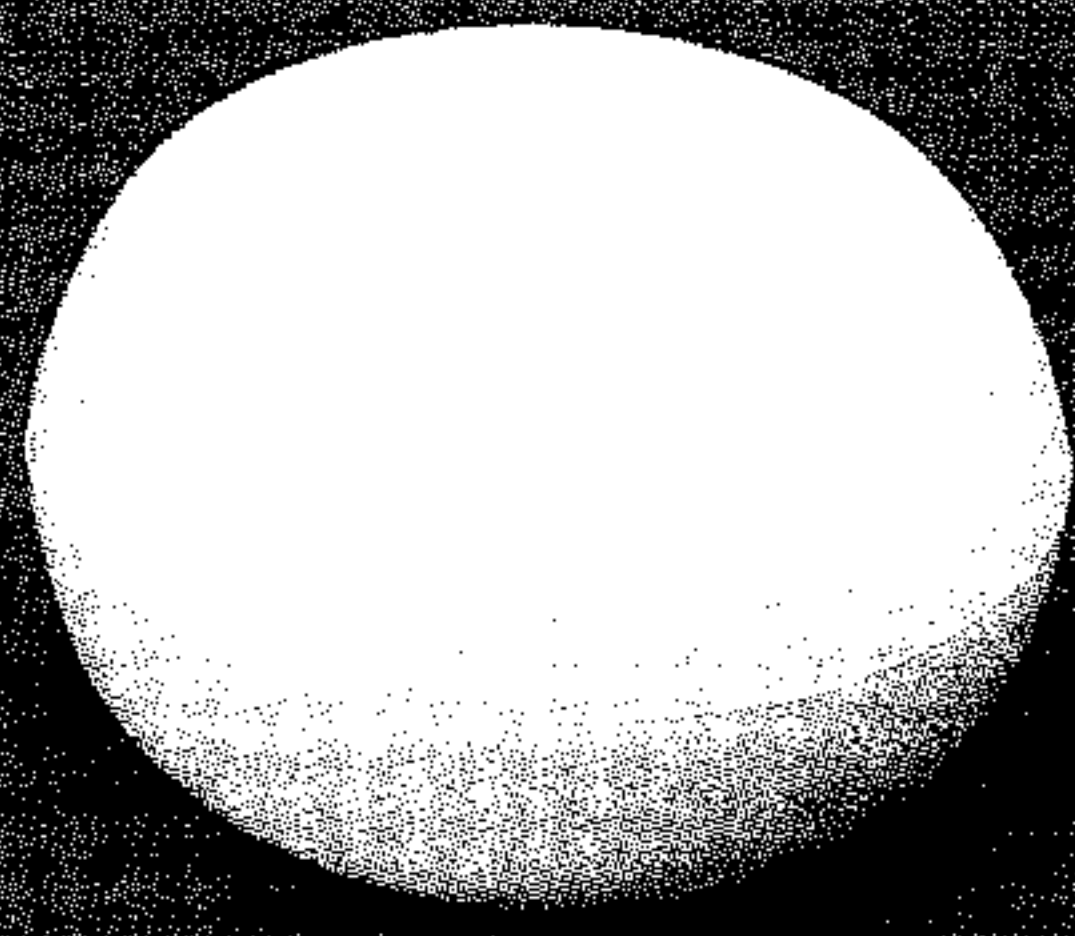




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Trawl spreading system to be tested

Maurice Shenker, the South African inventor of revolutionary new trawlnet spreading devices, is negotiating with an undisclosed European fishing gear manufacturer the sea testing of his patented "Active Trawling System" (ATS).

ATS has been designed to replace trawl boards by remote-controlled rotors, tentatively called Variable Thrust Vector Devices (VTVD).

This innovative system will allow for active control over the position of the trawl in space by changing the rota-


tional speed, direction and attitude of the rotors and would enable the skipper to "fly" the trawl the way one flies a plane or steers a submarine. The ATS would be capable of hunting down and catching fish on or off the seabed, and to either side of the trawler's path. Its controls can be integrated with fish-finding and navigation instruments on board.


The ATS makes use of the Magnus effect in which spinning rotors are developing a sideways force (shear or lift force) when in motion through air or water.

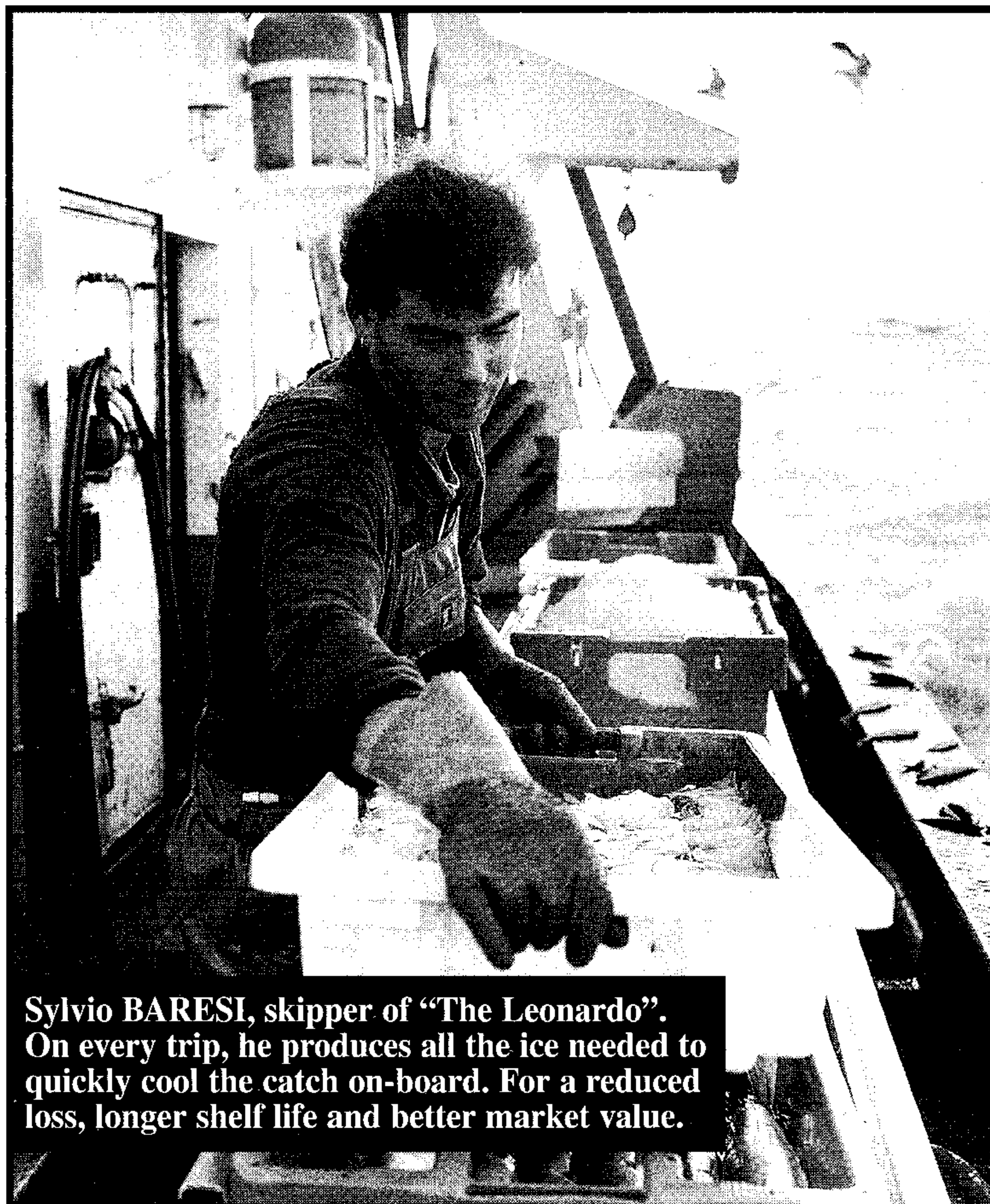
Up to now, tests have only been done with a single VTVD model. The presently negotiated stage in the development of ATS involves test-

ing a large model or a commercial-size trawl equipped with VTVDs instead of doors. Initially, the ship-to-trawl connecting link, providing control and power to the VTVDs will be by cable connection. In the future, however, a parallel development of a cable-less link is underway.

The ATS attracted considerable attention on the part of gear manufacturers and fishermen at the 1995 Cape-Town fishing exhibition. In a forthcoming issue of World Fishing we will print a feature on the ATS and the related integration of trawling operations.

 For further information
circle Nos. 41

 For further information
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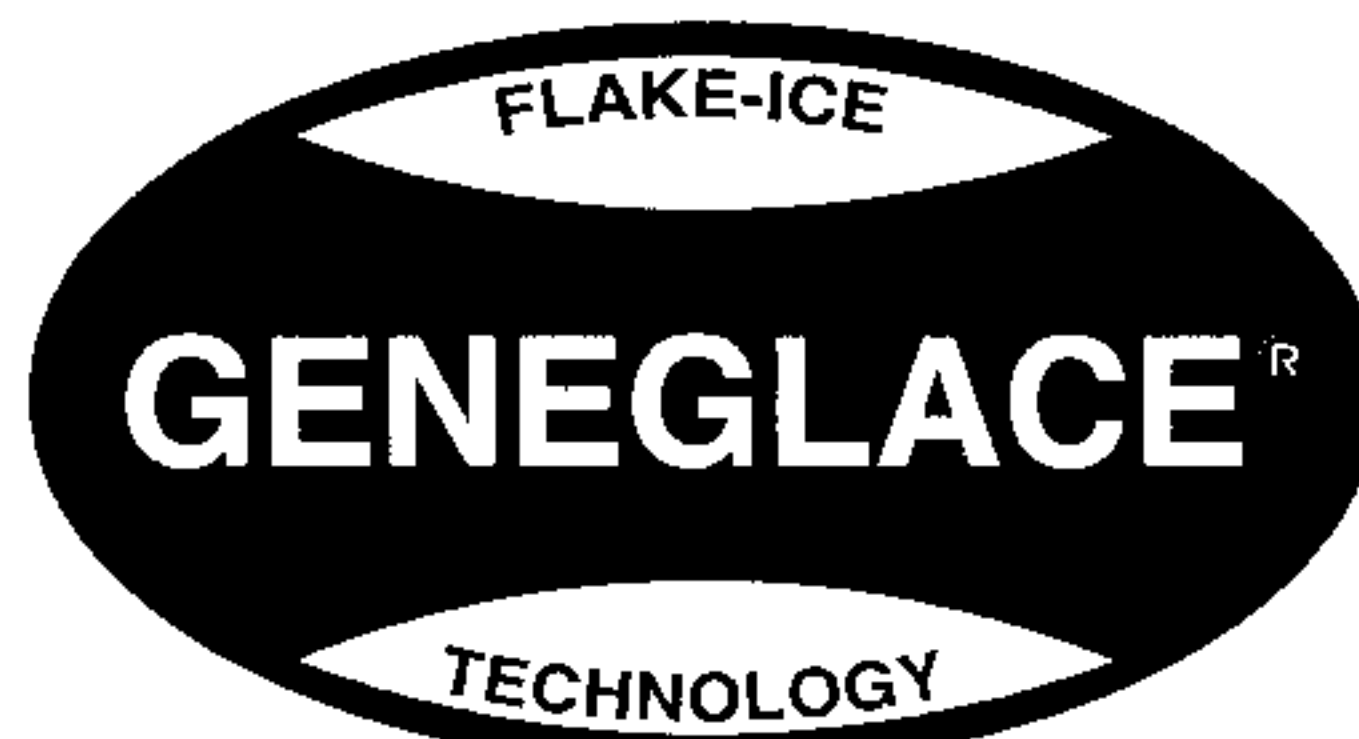


Sylvio BARESI, skipper of "The Leonardo".
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