

ABSTRACT

Several feasibility studies have identified vast fishery resources which are available to Trinidad & Tobago along the North-Eastern coast of South America. To make full use of these resources, it is felt that a greater level of mechanisation will have to be incorporated into the local fishing industry.

As the range of fish sizes is so great, a prerequisite to mechanisation of many operations is an automatic fish sizing system. The requirements of high reliability under adverse environmental conditions and the ability to be repaired by semi-skilled technicians makes fluidic control technology the ideal choice for such a system.

In this report, four alternative sizing circuits have been proposed, each logic circuit having different characteristics in terms of construction cost, performance and efficiency. One of these circuits was constructed and tested in a system sorting wooden blocks according to size. It was found that the system worked well at low speed (under 9 m/min) but the high speed performance could not be determined due to problems with the sensors and pneumatic activators.
