

Working on a seine net is a process that sounds simple in practice, but in reality it proves much more complex. Firstly, how each individual wants their net hung varies by fishing style, boat, area, weather, etc. It comes down to a game of numbers and precise measurements. You start with our fixed number, the cork line. You are allowed 250 fathoms of cork line and so that is what we measure off of. Then you have your other perimeters, including your lead line and potentially your rib line. These are adjusted according to what you are trying to achieve; sometimes you make them shorter other times you make them longer again depending upon how you are trying to fish. Lastly, is your web hang in, and that is usually measured as a percentage of 'hang in'. In a 250 fathom seine you don't put in 250 fathoms of web, that wouldn't work, you need your web to cup and create a bag that leads and holds fish. So you usually build in an extra percentage of web. That can vary from 15% to 50%. Usually this is done over a single 10 fathom stretch of net at a time. And over the course of your whole net that hang in of web/lead line/rib line can vary. The reason 10 fathoms is used a standard 'stretch' is because net sheds have limited space and it gives you enough gear to work on without constantly having to do pulls. The more you have to pull, the more you have to remeasure thus increasing potential for error.

So when you hang, rehang, rebuild, or fix a net you are working with all of these measurements to build a net that catches fish. And when you are talking about 250 fathoms you are talking about 25 stretches of cork line. If you start getting off on your measurements things can get out of square fast. Because with each stretch things compound, and once that happens the efficiency of a net is greatly compromised. This is why precision in net hanging is so important. That is why when the discussion of adjusting a net comes up, it is not just a matter of cost of the work, but it is a matter of getting it right; because if you don't it can come at a great cost to your fishing.

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