

Not to be cited without prior reference to Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen.

Cruise 0212H - FV *Victoria May* (PD267)

PROGRAMME

23-29 March 2012

Ports

Loading: Peterhead
Unloading: Peterhead

In setting the survey programme and specific objectives, etc the Scientist-in-Charge needs to be aware of the restrictions on working hours and the need to build in adequate rest days and rest breaks as set out in Marine Scotland's Working Time Policy (Notice 34/03). In addition, the Scientist-in-Charge must formally review the risk assessments for the survey with staff on-board before work is commenced.

In the interest of efficient data management it is now mandatory to return the survey report, to I Gibb and the Survey Summary Report (old ROSCOP form) to M Geldart, within four weeks of a survey ending. In the case of the Survey Summary Report a nil return is required, if appropriate

Personnel

R J Kynoch (SIC)
J Drewery

Project: – 10844 - 7 days

Objectives

1. To assess the performance of high and low standing Nephrops trawls incorporating a Faithlie Cod Avoidance Panel (FCAP) in reducing by-catches of cod. Catches from the two modified test trawls will be compared to those retained by unmodified control trawls.

Procedure

Staff and equipment will join FV *Victoria May* (PD267) at Peterhead on 23 March. Prior to sailing one of the low headline 'letterbox' and higher headline trawls will be modified to include the FCAP, which incorporates a 300 mm square mesh inclined netting panel and fish escape vent holes.

Throughout the trials the twin trawl method will be used to assess the performance of the two different test nets which will be compared against similar unmodified control trawls. Catch comparison data will be collected using 80 mm diamond mesh codends and 125 mm square mesh panels (SMP) fitted to the high standing trawls and 160 mm SMP fitted to the 'Letter box' trawls. The intention is to collect length data for all cod, haddock, whiting, anglerfish and weight data for Nephrops but as available other species may be included.

After rigging has been completed the vessel will sail to suitable Nephrops fishing grounds in the North Sea. Thereafter the vessel will commence catch comparison hauls for the

remainder of the cruise. The intension is to alternate between the high and low standing gears on a regular basis.

Ships accommodation will be used throughout and the charter will end in Peterhead on 29 March.

Contact details for FV Victoria May are 07732 165743 (Owner).

Normal contacts will be maintained with the laboratory.

Submitted:
R J Kynoch
19 March 2012

Approved:
I Gibb
19 March 2012