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Not to be cited without reference to the FRS Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen

MFV *Russa Taign* K1102

Cruise 0408H

Programme

Dates

19 May–1 June 2008

Ports

Loading: Fraserburgh

Half-landing: None

Un-loading: Fraserburgh

Personnel

D G Reid In Charge

R Kynoch

I Penny

L Ritchie

Gear

- 2 x GOV Ground gear B;
- Vessel's own commercial gear;
- Net instrumentation; door & wing spread, headline height, net depth, symmetry/speed, door tilt and bottom contact sensor.

Objectives

1. To develop procedures for twin trawling the GOV with the vessel's own commercial whitefish trawl.
2. To collect twin trawl samples on selected tows from the IBTS surveys and from the skippers own recommended clear tows.

Procedure

Equipment will be loaded on Monday 19 May in Fraserburgh. Staff will join on the same day. Depending on the prevailing weather conditions, the vessel will then steam to suitable grounds, most likely in the Moray Firth or off Aberdeen to test all gears and monitoring systems. We will use an extended suite of Scanmar monitoring equipment throughout. The initial tows will be used to check the deployment and operation of the two nets in twin trawl configuration. It is

anticipated that it will take several days to set up the twin trawl arrangements as these are not matching nets. Elements such as tow speed, wire lengths and rigging will be investigated. If the set up for twin trawling is successful, we will then move to suitable fishing grounds to collect simultaneous fish samples in both nets. The commercial net will be fitted with a 20mm blinder similar to the GOV. Suitable tows will be drawn from the IBTS clear tow database. Additional tows will be decided by the skipper in consultation with the SiC. The aim will be to provide as wide a range of fish abundance as possible, particularly for cod. Fish samples will be worked up in standard IBTS format.

Russa Taign will return to Fraserburgh on Sunday 1 June where unloading will take place.

Usual contact will be maintained with the laboratory

J A Morrison
30 April 2008