

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

0612H Seafish Charter MFV *Amity II* (PD177)

PROGRAMME

16 October to 29/31 October 2012

Ports

Loading: 16 Oct 2012 Peterhead
Port Call: 21 Oct 2012 Flexible
Unloading: 29/31 Oct 2012* Peterhead

* There is a clause in the derogation for the survey that allows some flexibility with regards to the end date to take into account any potential breaks in the charter such as for a half-landing or to avoid any adverse weather.

In setting the cruise 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 (Lab Notice 34/03). In addition, the Scientist-in-Charge must formally review the risk assessments for the cruise 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

J Drewery (SIC)
R Kynoch (Part 1)
M Montgomerie (Part 1)
J Mair (Part 2)
M Kinghorn (Part 2)

Project: TBC – no more than 14 days

Objectives

1. To perform catch comparison trials on the following test case: an oval grid constructed from flexible polymer with bar spacing of 45mm and a bottom gap of 300mm rigged in the taper from the codline, used in conjunction with an 80mm diamond mesh codend. This test case may be subject to certain alterations during the course of the charter. These will be fully documented and further catch comparison trials will be undertaken as before.
2. To observe the rigging and behaviour of the flexible grid under fishing operations.

Procedure

Staff and equipment will join *Amity II* at Peterhead on 16 October 2012. Staff will then commence rigging the test gears to the vessels *Nephrops* trawls, configuring the scanmar setup and installing fish measuring stations aboard the vessel in Peterhead harbour.

Time permitting the vessel will steam during the afternoon of 16 October to grounds relatively close by and undertake tows of short duration to ascertain optimal positioning and rigging of the grid using scanmar sensors and direct observation using cameras. This phase will be expected to inform on what adjustments, if any, to make to the test case during fishing trials. This phase is expected to take up no more than three days.

Upon satisfactory results being obtained from this initial phase *Amity* will then steam offshore to *Nephrops*/whitefish grounds to perform fishing trials of the gear.

Catch comparison data will be obtained using the twin trawl method. One side of the twin rig will fish a standard configuration of *Nephrops* trawl. Previous discussions have decided the standard rig will conform to section 7.3 of version 3.3 Conservation Credits scheme rules on TR2 gear. This configuration utilises a 3 metre long square mesh panel (SMP) of 110mm (nominal) mesh rigged no further than 15-18m from the codline and a standard sized codend. Catches from this will be compared against those from the other net in the pair which will, instead of the SMP, have the flexible grid installed at a suitable position. Both codends will be 80mm. Trawl geometry (doors, wings) will be monitored using the Scanmar system.

The main target species will be cod, haddock, whiting, and monk. *Nephrops* catches will be recorded by weight of each commercial size category. Other species may be additionally targeted as time and conditions permit.

A scientific derogation has been obtained permitting fishing without a square mesh panel. It will also allow the landing any marketable fish which will be offset against the cost of the charter.

Ship's accommodation will be used throughout the fishing trials. A call at an appropriate port will be made approximately 21 October which will terminate Part 1 of the trials. This will allow landing of catch and staff changeover.

Normal contacts will be maintained with the Laboratory.

Contact details for the *Amity II*:

Vessel mobile: 07802 849 727

Vessel/Skipper Email: skipper@amityfish.co.uk for short emails

Vessel Manager: Petrie (Don Fishing Company) 01779 474 231

Submitted:

J Drewery

11 October 2012

Approved:

I Gibb

12 October 2012