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PROGRAMME

Cruise 1610H (SISP) - Charter Fishing Vessel Favonius (PD17)

9-18 November 2010

PORTS

Loading: Peterhead

Unloading: Peterhead

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 Cruise Report, to I Gibb and the Cruise Summary Report (old ROSCOP form) to M Geldart, within four weeks of a cruise ending. In the case of the Cruise Summary Report a nil return is required, if appropriate.

Personnel

R J Kynoch (In charge)

J Drewery

J Mair

Project: – MF06r16 (10740) - 10 days

Objectives

1. To assess the performance of a Nephrops trawl incorporating a design which gives a low headline height (~1.2m) in reducing by-catches of cod, haddock and whiting but still retaining catches of Nephrops. Catches from this test trawl will be compared to those retained by a traditional design of higher headline (~2.2m) Nephrops trawl.

Procedure

Marine Scotland Science (MSS) staff and equipment will join Favonius (PD17) at Peterhead on 9 November. 2 Nephrops trawls (test and control) will be delivered by Faithlie Trawls Ltd during the same morning. MSS staff, vessels skipper and crew will then commence rigging the fishing gear and fish measuring stations aboard the vessel along side Peterhead harbour.

Throughout the trials the twin trawl method will be used to assess the performance of the low headline test trawl compared to the higher headline standard trawl. Catch comparison data will be collected using 80mm diamond mesh codends and 110mm square mesh panels @15-18m attached to both trawls. The intention is to collect catch data for cod, haddock, whiting and nephrops and other species as available.

After rigging has been completed the vessel will sail to suitable fishing grounds in the Moray Firth to carry out shakedown hauls to check the symmetry of the twin trawl system. These checks will be made using net mounted acoustic instrumentation and self-recording low-light TV cameras. Once the correct symmetry has been confirmed the intention is for the vessel to make passage to suitable offshore commercial fishing grounds in the North Sea. Thereafter the vessel will commence catch comparison hauls for the remainder of the cruise. If possible during the cruise the test and control trawls will be swapped over to establish if there is any port/starboard bias in the twin trawl system. However, the timing of this switch over is very much dependant on good prevailing weather conditions to enable it to be made safely. Ships accommodation will be used throughout and the charter will end in Peterhead on 18 November 2010.

Contact details for Favonius are Caley Fisheries Ltd (agents) 01779 479772.

Submitted:
R J Kynoch
01/11/10

Approved:
I Gibb
04/11/10