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

Charter Fishing Vessel *Fruitful Bough* (PD109)

Cruise 1709H

## **PROGRAMME**

15-28 July 2009

### **Ports**

Loading: 15 July 2009 Fraserburgh

Port Call: Flexible

Unloading: 28 July 2009 Fraserburgh

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

### **Personnel**

J Drewery (In charge)

J Mair

K Summerbell

**Project:** MF06Q – 14 days

### **Objectives**

1. To perform selectivity trials on a "Swedish Grid" rigged in the extension at 15 m from the codline, used in conjunction with an 80 mm diamond mesh codend.
2. To perform selectivity trials on a 120 mm Square Mesh Panel (SMP) rigged in the extension at 12-15 m from the codline, used in conjunction with an 80 mm diamond mesh codend.
3. To perform selectivity trials on a 120 mm SMP rigged in the extension at 6-9 m from the codline, used in conjunction with an 80 mm diamond mesh codend.

## Procedure

Staff and equipment will join *Fruitful Bough* (PD109) at Fraserburgh on Wednesday 15 July 2009. Staff will then commence rigging the test configurations to the vessels Nephrops trawls and set up fish and Nephrops measuring stations aboard the vessel in Fraserburgh harbour.

Time permitting the vessel will steam during the afternoon of 15 July to commercial fishing grounds relatively close by and carry out a shakedown haul. The vessel will then steam offshore to the Fladen/North Fladen grounds and thereafter selectivity data will be collected for the different test configurations.

Selectivity will be measured by using the twin trawl method. Initially the port trawl (the Control) will sample the total population of fish and nephrops available on the ground using a small (40 mm) mesh codend. The starboard trawl (the Test) will have one of the three experimental gear configurations (above) attached. Catches from the Test will be compared to those from the Control. A swap over of the relative positions on the twin-rig of the Test and Control will take place half way through the trials.

The main target species will be cod, haddock, whiting, nephrops and skate (all species) with other species being additionally targeted as time and conditions permit.

The intention is to change the test configurations every two days to allow for variation in catch composition over the experimental period. A scientific derogation has been obtained permitting fishing without a square mesh panel and use of the small mesh codends. It will also allow the landing of any marketable fish which will be offset against the cost of the charter.

Where possible the self contained mini TV camera and flashcard recorder will be deployed to obtain information on the rigging of the grid and behaviour of fish when encountering it.

Ship's accommodation will be used throughout the fishing trials. A call at an appropriate port will be made (approximately 21-22 July) to allow the landing of catch. The cruise will end in Fraserburgh on Tuesday 28 July when staff and equipment will return to Aberdeen. Normal contacts will be maintained with the Laboratory. Contact number for *Fruitful Bough* is 0033 640 047 125 by satphone or through J.R.R Fishselling Ltd: 01779 477 111.

Submitted:  
J Drewery  
2 July 2009

Approved:  
I Gibb  
7 July 2009.