

P17/8

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

Charter Fishing Vessel *Genesis* (BF 505)

Cruise 2207H

PROGRAMME

18-28 March 2008

Ports

Loading: Peterhead, 18 March

Unloading: Peterhead, 28 March

***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 FRS' Working Time Policy (which is published on the Intranet). 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 John Morrison 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

Iain Gibb (SIC)
Francis Neat
Declan Tobin

Project: MFP6Q04 – 11 days

Fishing Gear

Vessel's own single whitefish trawl (120mm codend)
20mm small mesh binder
Live fish codend

Other Equipment

Minilogger
4 fish tanks
Liquid nitrogen flask

Objectives

1. To identify important cod spawning areas in areas IVa and IVb.
2. To tag spawning cod from west Shetland for investigations of their movements. Tagging will involve both conventional and data storage tags.

3. To biologically sample all cod (and haddock from two areas) for length, sex and maturity. Otoliths, genetic samples and ovary sections will be extracted at sea and preserved in vials for later analysis.
4. To collect live cod eggs from Buchan and Viking areas and return them to local ports for transportation to Ardtoe field station.

Procedure

All gear and scientific equipment will be loaded onto the vessel in Peterhead on the morning of Tuesday 18 March. After the installation of gear is complete, the vessel will depart and, weather permitting, make passage to a local area to collect live cod eggs and return them to port. Transport will be waiting onshore to take the eggs to Ardtoe. The vessel will then recommence the cod survey, surveying areas throughout area IVa in consultation with the vessel's skipper. Cod (N=29) from west of Shetland, in suitable condition, will be tagged internally with data storage tags to record temperature, depth, date and time. This will enable us to collect data on individual fish movements and environmental exposure in this area. Cod eggs from Viking Bank will be collected and returned to Lerwick for air transportation back to Inverness where local transport will take them to Ardtoe. The vessel will once again recommence the cod survey.

The daily working plan for the vessel will be to carry out as many fishing hauls per day as possible. Trawls will be of approximately 20 - 60 minute duration, depending on quantity of catch on the grounds and will be carried out on a 12-hour daytime shift. A minilogger will be attached on the net headline to record water temperature throughout the tows. The Scanmar system will be used to monitor net dynamics during each haul. All cod (and haddock from two areas) will be sampled for length, sex and maturity. Otoliths, genetic samples and ovary sections will be extracted and preserved at sea. Special dispensation for sampling of undersized fish has been arranged with the Scottish Government.

All gear will be unloaded in Peterhead on 28 March.

Normal contact will be maintained with the Marine Laboratory.

J A Morrison
3 March 2008