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Not to be cited without prior reference to Marine Scotland – Marine Laboratory

PROGRAMME

Cruise 3009H – Charter Fishing Vessel Genesis (BF505)

29 January – 12 February 2010

Ports

Loading: Macduff

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 D Lichtman, 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 (SIC)

I Penny

P Vasilakopoulos (MSc)

Out-turn days: 15 days:10021

Objectives

1. To assess the performance of three different large diamond mesh (300mm, 600mm and 800mm) netting panels inserted into the belly sheet of a commercial whitefish trawl in reducing cod by-catches.

Procedure

Staff and equipment will join Genesis (BF505) at Macduff on 29 January 2010. Staff will then commence modifying one of the vessels commercial whitefish twin trawls which will be the test net. The other trawl will be left unmodified and act as the standard trawl to allow a comparison to be made against the test trawl.

The test trawl will be modified by inserting a 300mm diamond mesh netting section directly behind the second tearing strip, approximately 4m behind fishingline centre. The 300mm netting section will cover the full width of the belly sheet and be approximately 12m long. This section will replace the existing 120mm x 100 meshes deep netting section. During the cruise three different mesh sizes will be tested all inserted at the same location; 300mm, 600mm and 800mm. Each test case will be fished until sufficient valid hauls have been obtained before it's changed over. Both trawls will be rigged with 120mm (nominal) diamond mesh extensions and codends constructed from 5mm high tenacity single and double twine

respectively. Throughout the trials the twin trawl method will be used to assess the performance of the test trawl compared to the standard trawl. Catch comparison data will be collected for Cod, haddock, whiting, monkfish and any other commercial species as available.

After rigging has been completed the vessel will sail to commercial grounds in the North Sea possibly NE of the Shetland Islands and commence catch comparison hauls. The exact area to be fished will be decided after consultation with the skipper and dependent on the prevailing weather conditions. The cruise will end at Peterhead on 12 February when staff and equipment will return to Aberdeen. Ship's accommodation will be used throughout the cruise

Normal contacts will be maintained with the Laboratory.

Submitted:
R J Kynoch
14 January 2010

Approved:
I Gibb
15 January 2010