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

Charter Fishing Vessel *Ocean Trust* (0B 38)

Cruise 0309H

## **PROGRAMME**

5-21 March 2009

### **Ports**

Loading: 5 March 2009 Mallaig  
Port Call: Flexible Mallaig  
Unloading: 21 March 2009 Mallaig

**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 (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**

D Bova (In charge)  
J Drewery  
I Penny

**Project:** MF06Q – 15 days

### **Objectives**

1. To assess the performance and selectivity of a "Swedish grid" with an 80mm diamond mesh codend on reducing the by-catch of juvenile whitefish in Nephrops trawl. Attain underwater video footage of grid in situ using mini TV.
2. To assess selectivity of 80mm codend with 120mm SMP @ 12-15m.
3. To assess of 80mm codend with 120mm SMP @ 6-9m.

The main objective of the trials are to assess the performance of a "Swedish grid" with an 80mm diamond mesh codend on reducing the by-catch of juvenile whitefish in a Nephrops trawl. This gear will be compared against the current legal gear for vessels targeting West of Scotland Nephrops grounds, which consists of an 80mm diamond mesh codend with a 120mm square mesh panel positioned at 12-15m from the codline. One other panel position will also be trailed at 6-9 m from the codline. Selectivity will be measured by using a small mesh codend (40mm) on one trawl to sample the population of fish and Nephrops entering the net and comparing this with the catch from the experimental gears.

## **Procedure**

The intention is to target whitefish and nephrops on the grounds of the South Minch. The main target species are haddock, whiting, cod, prawns and other ground fish species if available. During daylight at the start of the charter hauls will be made using 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.

After attaining the video footage, selectivity trials will then commence on the 'Swedish gird' and the panel positions.

A derogation will be in force during the charter period allowing for the use of 40 mm total population mesh, the 'Swedish grid' and panel positions. The derogation will also facilitate the sale of commercial catch.

Contact with the Ocean Trust can be made by contacting 07795838085 and or through the fishing agent Denholm Fishselling LMT 01687 462305.

Submitted:  
D Bova  
3 March 2009

Approved:  
I Gibb  
3 March 2009