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MRV *Alba na Mara*

Survey 0314A

PROGRAMME

11 - 24 March 2014

Ports

Sailing: Fraserburgh, 11 March 2014
Port visit Fraserburgh, 12 March 2014 (Provisional)
Unloading: Fraserburgh, 24 March 2014

In setting the survey 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 survey with staff on-board before work is commenced.

In the interest of efficient data management it is now mandatory to return the Survey Report, to I Gibb and the Survey Summary Report (old ROSCOP form) to M Geldart, within four weeks of a cruise ending. In the case of the Survey Summary Report a nil return is required, if appropriate

Personnel

R Kynoch (SIC)
J Drewery
N Collie
M Kinghorn (12 - 24 March)

Estimated days by project: 14 days, 20178

Gear

1 x Prawn trawl BT 201 with 80mm codend.
Net mounted TV system (Navigator cameras)
Scanmar instrumentation
Cod discard reduction gear modifications (Monk & standard flexi-grid / Scotnet SCIF & SMP)

Objectives

- To undertake underwater observations of Nephrops trawl Highly Selective Gear. (HSG) modifications in support of the Scottish Conservation Credits Scheme.
- Main target species are monkfish, cod and Nephrops.

Procedure

Fishing gear, mini TV equipment and Scanmar instrumentation will be rigged aboard the vessel prior to sailing on 11 March. After sailing on 11 March the intention will be to make for suitable Nephrops grounds in the Moray Firth close to Fraserburgh or MacDuff to undertake underwater observation and test the mini camera systems. As monkfish and cod are the main target species the choice of grounds will need to take this into account. The preferred area of operation is either the west Orkneys (Noup area) or east side of the Shetlands. However, this will depend on the prevailing weather conditions and after detailed discussions with the skipper and taking into account the working practices of the vessel.

The work plan is to undertake underwater observations with each cod selective gear modification using net mounted low-light camera systems with up to a maximum of 4 cameras attached to the trawl during each haul. A small collection bag (1m circumference x 3m long in 60mm mesh netting) will be fitted to the top portion of the monk grid to assess its effect on monk catches. This addition to the flex-grid rig which was worked during a similar survey (0212A) should not cause any issues with regard safe fishing operations.

The number of hauls made each day and their duration will be variable and depend on the grounds being fished but should be no more than 2 hours long. After the observations on each device have been completed, re-rigging to the next device will be carried out onboard.

A port call will be required to pick up M Kinghorn from a Moray Firth port on the evening of 12 March.

General

There is no need for any night hauls during this survey and work patterns will be arranged around the normal working hours/practices of the vessel. The survey will end in Fraserburgh on 24 March with all staff, fishing gear and scientific equipment returning to the Marine Laboratory.

Normal contact will be maintained with the laboratory.

Submitted:
Rob Kynoch
21 February 2014

Approved:
I Gibb
03 March 2014.