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MFV *Zenith* BF106

Survey 0816H

PROGRAMME

24-31 May 2016

Ports

Loading: Fraserburgh 24 May 2016

Unloading: Fraserburgh 31 May 2016

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 survey ending. In the case of the Survey Summary Report a nil return is required, if appropriate.

Personnel

M Kinkhorn (SIC)

J Dooley

Project Code: 20178

Objective

1. To assess the performance of a low headline Nephrops trawl incorporating 115 mm mesh lower wing, 160 mm mesh top wing, Bobbin (centre) ground gear section and 200 mm square mesh panel rigged at 9-12 m from the codline in reducing unwanted fish by-catches. This trawl will be compared against a standard low headline trawl incorporating a 'Ballooned' headline and 110 mm square mesh panel.

Procedure

This charter is being funded by the Gear Innovation and Technology Group (GITAG). Staff and equipment will join *Zenith* (BF106) at Fraserburgh on 24 May. Prior to sailing both test and control trawls will be inspected and key measurements recorded.

Throughout the trials the twin trawl method will be used to assess the performance of the test trawl compared to the control trawl. Catch comparison data will be collected using 100 mm diamond mesh codends. The intention is to collect length data for all cod, haddock, whiting, anglerfish, flatfish and if available weight data for *Nephrops*. During the survey the test and control trawl will be swapped over to negate any port/starboard bias in terms of catchability.

On leaving port the vessel will sail to suitable *Nephrops* fishing grounds just north of Fraserburgh and conduct short hauls to assess the fishing performance of the new test trawl and the symmetry of the twin trawl system. Thereafter, the vessel will sail to commercial

fishing grounds in the North Sea and commence catch comparison hauls for the remainder of the survey.

Ships accommodation will be used throughout and the charter will end in Fraserburgh on 31 May.

Normal contacts will be maintained with the laboratory.

Submitted:
M Kinghorn
24 May 2016

Approved:
I Gibb
24 May 2016