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Not to be cited without prior reference to FRS Marine Laboratory

PROGRAMME

Cruise 1108H - Charter Fishing Vessel Genesis (BF505)

5 – 16 December 2008

Ports

Loading: MacDuff
Port Call: Scalloway or Lerwick (Provisional)
Unloading: MacDuff

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

R J Kynoch (In charge)
Jim Drewery
I Penny
Dave Bova 5 – 11 December

Out-turn days: 12 days: MF06Q

Objectives

1. To assess the performance of large mesh side netting panels inserted into the edges of the belly panel of a commercial whitefish trawl in reducing cod by-catches.
2. To carry out underwater observation of the rigging of large mesh side panels and observe cod reactions when encountering them using self-recording ccd cameras.

Procedure

Staff and equipment will join Genesis (BF505) at MacDuff on 5 December 2008. Staff will then commence rigging the large mesh side panels into one of the vessels whitefish trawls. The other trawl will be left unmodified to allow a comparison to be made against the test net.

Initially the test net will be modified by inserting 2 x 800mm diamond mesh side panels into the belly sheet with their leading edges mended into the first tearing strip behind the fishing line. The dimensions of each panel will be approximately 13 meshes deep with 11 open

meshes across the leading edges, tapering down to 10 open meshes at the rear. The panels inside edge will be cut down a side knot and the outside edge closest to the selvedge will be tapered. To enable the panels to hang correctly they will be inserted into the existing 160mm netting using triangular sections of 160mm netting with a joining ration of 5:1. Depending on results the size and positioning of the side panels may be altered, however if the optimum positions are established then the 800mm diamond mesh may be replaced by either 1200mm or 600mm mesh netting. During the trials ccd cameras will be suitable positioned to allow observations to be made of the rigging of the large mesh side panels and the behaviour of cod, monkfish and megrim when encountering them.

Throughout the trials the twin trawl method will be used to assess the performance of the large mesh panels. Selectivity will be measured for cod, anglerfish and megrim but other species will be sampled as available. Both nets will be fished with 80mm codends with the standard net sampling the population on the grounds and the other net with the large mesh side panel configurations.

After initial rigging has been completed the intention is for the vessel to sail to commercial fishing grounds around the Shetland Isles. Fishing will commence during 5 December and continue until 15 December with ship's accommodation used throughout the charter trials. A port call will be made into either Lerwick or Scalloway (provisional) during the evening 11 December to drop off D. Bova. The cruise will end at MacDuff on 16 December when staff and equipment will return to Aberdeen.

Normal contacts will be maintained with the Laboratory.

I Gibb

8 December 2008