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

Programme

Cruise 1208H - Charter Fishing Vessel Bountiful (BF79)

4 – 16 August 2008

Ports

Loading: Fraserburgh
Half Landing: Fraserburgh (9-10 August)
Unloading: Fraserburgh

***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 (which is published on the Intranet). 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 John Morrison 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)
J Drewery

Objectives

1. To measure the selectivity of an 80mm diamond mesh codend with a 110mm square mesh panel rigged into the trawls tapered section and positioned 15-18m from the codline.
2. To measure the selectivity of an 80mm diamond mesh codend with a 120mm square mesh panel rigged into the trawls tapered section and positioned 15-18m from the codline.
3. To measure the selectivity of an 80mm diamond mesh codend with a 110mm square mesh panel rigged into the leading edge of the trawls straight extension and positioned 15-18m from the codline.
4. If time allows as Objective 3 but with a 120mm square mesh panel.

Procedure

Staff and equipment will join Bountiful (BF79) at Fraserburgh on 4 August 2008. Staff will then commence rigging the test configurations to the vessels *Nephrops* trawls and set up fish and *Nephrops* measuring stations aboard the vessel in Fraserburgh harbour.

The vessel will sail during the afternoon of 4 August to commercial fishing grounds close to Fraserburgh and carry out a shakedown haul. Depending on the prevailing weather conditions the vessel will either sail to commercial tows in the Skate Hole area or in the Moray Firth (ICES Area IVa). Thereafter selectivity data will be collected for the different codend/SMP test configurations. The main target species will be cod, haddock, whiting and Nephrops. The twin trawl method will be used in which two similar nets are towed by the one vessel. One trawl, the control, will sample the population of fish and *Nephrops* available on the grounds using a 40 mm small mesh cod-end. The other net will have the various experimental configurations attached to it.

The 80mm diamond mesh codend is constructed from 4mm single PE twine with 108 open meshes in its circumference and fitted with a lifting bag. The 110mm and 120mm SMPs will be constructed from 6mm single knotless PE twine and be 3.1m long and inserted into the end of the trawls tapered section (Objectives 1 and 2) at 15-18m from the codline. For Objectives 3 and 4 the SMPs will be inserted into the leading 3.1m of the straight extension and positioned 15-18m from the codline.

The intention is to change the test configurations each day to allow for any variation in catch composition over the experimental period. After sufficient hauls have been obtained for Objectives 1-2 then hauls will be made for Objective 3. If sufficient time is available towards the end of the charter period hauls will be made for Objective 4. A scientific derogation has been obtained to fish with the 40mm codends and land any marketable fish which will be offset against the cost of the charter.

Ship's accommodation will be used throughout the fishing trials. A half-landing will be made into Fraserburgh on 9 August with staff returning to Aberdeen until the morning of 11 August. The cruise will end at Fraserburgh on 16 August - when staff and equipment will return to Aberdeen. Normal contacts will be maintained with the Laboratory. Contact number for Bountiful is through the vessel's agents Caley Fisheries Ltd, Fraserburgh 01346 513193.

J A Morrison
21 July 2008