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

FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 1604S

0405c.pdf

PROGRAMME

11 November – 3 December

Loading: 8-9 November

Departure: 11 November

Half Landing: Dublin 25 November (flexible)

***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.**

Personnel

*A Robb (In charge)
J Mills
M Mathewson
S Holmes
A Tait
I Penny (Part 1)
K Peach (Part 2)
S Greenstreet
M Robertson
H Fraser
G Stowesser (Abdn Univ)

Fishing Gear

GOV Trawl (BT137) with belly lines, Ground gear, C and A

Benthic Sampling

Van Veen Grab
2 Metre Beam Trawl

Objectives

1. To take part in the ICES co-ordinated Western Division Demersal Trawling Survey.
2. To obtain temperature and salinity data at each trawling position.
3. To carry out benthic sampling at night along the trawl track.

Procedures

General

Loading of the trawl gear will take place at the end of the decommissioning of cruise 1504S. All other scientific equipment will be loaded on 8/9 November. Setting up and testing of the equipment will be completed the following day. *Scotia* will then sail on Thursday 11 November and commence operations the next morning to the west of Orkney. Weather conditions at the time will determine the exact start area.

Trawling

One trawl haul of thirty minutes duration will be made at each of the positions shown on the attached chart. For work in the Irish sea, the trawl net will be rigged with ground gear A, all other stations will be sampled using ground gear C. For each haul, the Scanmar metering system will be used to monitor the net for headline height, wing spread and door spread. If possible, an intercalibration exercise or comparison hauls will be carried out with the Celtic Explorer at selected areas around the Irish coast.

All fish will be treated according to standard research vessel procedures.

Hydrography

CTD casts will be taken at each trawl station. The thermosalinograph will be run continuously to obtain sea surface temperature and salinity throughout the survey area.

Benthic Sampling

Generally, the benthic sampling will take place once fishing operations have finished for the day. Sampling will be carried out using a 0.1 m square van Veen grab, five samples will be taken at each station. A two metre beam trawl will also be deployed at each sampling station.

WTD

Rest day provision for this cruise will be provided by the half landing on or around 25 November.

Normal contacts will be maintained with the Laboratory

J A Morrison
18 October 2004