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MRV Scotia

Survey 1618S

PROGRAMME

28 October - 08 November 2018

Loading: Aberdeen 24 October 2018 (GOV and scientific kit)
Loading: Aberdeen 25 October 2018 (BT237 and light hopper rig)
Departure: Aberdeen 28 October 2018
Unloading: Aberdeen 8 November 2018

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.

Estimated days by project: 12 days – SU02N0 (20154)

Fishing Gear

BT137 GOV trawl rigged with ground gear A.

BT237 (Jackson trawl) rigged with Light hopper rig (300mm and 250mm discs).

2 sets GOV polyvalent trawl doors.

2 Vonin 'Flyer' plastic kites.

Objectives

1. To carryout catch comparison trials to compare the fishing performance of the BT237 against the standard survey trawl BT137 GOV rigged with A gear.
2. To assess the fishing performance, in terms of gear geometry, of the new Vonin 'Flyer' kite as a replacement for the standard metal kite used with BT137.
- 3.

Procedures

General

The fishing gear will be loaded aboard (BT137 – 24/10 & BT237 – 25/10) and rigged prior to the start of the survey. The BT137 with ground gear A will be rigged on the top net drum and the BT237 trawl rigged on the lower net drum. The polyvalent doors will be used with both trawls throughout the survey, spare set stored on the upper castles. Scotia will sail on 28 October and after all safety drills have been completed make passage for the Moray Firth where shakedown hauls will be made with both trawls.

Thereafter and weather permitting the vessel will proceed north to fishing grounds East of the Orkneys or Shetland Islands. The intention is to conduct daily trawling operations from 07:00 until 21:00hrs.

Fishing

The main objective of the survey is to compare the fishing performance between BT137 and BT237 using the alternate haul method (Objective 1). Catch comparison hauls will consist of 15min to 30min tows depending on fish species mix on the grounds. The hauls will be paired (BT137 v BT237 or BT237 v BT137) and both paired hauls must run along the same fishing track. The aim to keep the pattern, timing and environmental factors (daylight/dark periods) as constant as possible between the first and second tow in each set of paired hauls.

During the survey gear geometry data and underwater observation using a self-recording camera will be made to assess the performance of the new 'Flyer' plastic kite attached to BT137 (Objective 2).

Survey schedule and operations will be decided by SIC after daily consultation with Captain and Fishing Master.

The survey will finish in Aberdeen on 8 November with all staff and BT237 fishing gear returning to the Marine Laboratory. The BT137 fishing gear and most of the scientific equipment will remain onboard for survey 1718S.

Normal contacts will be maintained with MSS.

Submitted:
R. J. Kynoch
27 September 2018

Approved:
I. Gibb
16 October 2018