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

Charter Fishing Vessel *Ocean Bounty* (PD 182)

Cruise 2007H

PROGRAMME

17-26 September 2007

Ports

Loading: Peterhead, 17 September

Unloading: Peterhead, 26 September

***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

Iain Gibb (SIC)

Project: MF0760 – 10 days

Fishing Gear

Vessel's own single whitefish trawl
20mm small mesh binder

Other Equipment

Minilogger
2 fish tanks

Objectives

1. To identify important cod nursery areas in the North Sea.
2. To biologically sample all 0-group cod for length, sex and maturity. Otoliths will be extracted at sea and preserved dry in plastic vials for later ICP-MS analysis.
3. To collect live 1-group cod from St Andrews Bay/Bell Rock.

Procedure

All gear and scientific equipment will be loaded onto the vessel in Peterhead on the morning of Monday 17 September. After the installation of gear is complete, the vessel will depart and, weather permitting, make passage to St Andrews Bay/Bell rock to trawl for live cod. If the prevailing weather conditions prevent working these grounds then an alternative area will be selected in consultation with the vessel's skipper. If successful with the live fish capture, the vessel will proceed to Aberdeen harbour to dock, where the fish will be transported by lorry back to the FBU. The vessel will then recommence the cod survey, surveying areas throughout the North Sea in consultation with the vessel's skipper.

The daily working plan for the vessel will be to carry out as many fishing hauls per day as possible. Trawls will be of approximately 30 minute duration, depending on quantity of catch on the grounds and will be carried out on a 12-hour daytime shift. A minilogger will be attached to the net headline to record water temperature throughout the tows. Cod will be sampled for length, sex and maturity. Otoliths will be extracted and preserved dry in plastic microtubes for late otolith chemistry analysis. Special dispensation for sampling of undersized fish has been arranged with the Scottish Government.

All gear will be unloaded in Peterhead on 26 September. Normal contact will be maintained with the Marine Laboratory.

Vessel Contact Details

Ocean Bounty Telephone	0787 675 7868
Ocean Bounty (Sat Phone)	00 33 640 048 498

J A Morrison
13 September 2007