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Charter Fishing Vessel *Fruitful Bough* (PD109)

Cruise 3309H

PROGRAMME

25 January – 8 February 2010

Ports

Loading: Peterhead, 25 January 2010

Port Call: Flexible, flexible

Unloading: Fraserburgh/Peterhead, 8 February 2010

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 Marine Scotland's 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 I Gibb and the Cruise Summary Report (old ROSCOP form) to D Lichtman, within four weeks of a cruise ending. In the case of the Cruise Summary Report a nil return is required, if appropriate.

Personnel

J Drewery (In charge)

J Mair

E Armstrong

P Gibson

Project: MF06Q/10021 – 15* days

* there is a clause in the charter contact for 3309H that allows an extension of up to two days onto the charter should this be required. This is subject to skipper/owner agreement.

Objectives

To perform selectivity trials on the following test cases:

1. A "Swedish Grid" with bar spacing of 35 mm rigged in the extension at 15 m from the codline, used in conjunction with an 80 mm diamond mesh codend.
2. A "Swedish Grid" with bar spacing of 40 mm rigged in the extension at 15 m from the codline, used in conjunction with an 80 mm diamond mesh codend.
3. A "Swedish Grid" with bar spacing of 40 mm rigged in the extension at 15 m from the codline, used in conjunction with a 120 mm Square Mesh Panel rigged at 6-9m from the codline and an 80 mm diamond mesh codend.

Procedure

Staff and equipment will join Fruitful Bough (PD109) at Peterhead on Mon 25 Jan 2010. Staff will then commence rigging the test gears to the vessels nephrops trawls, configuring the scanmar setup, and installing fish and nephrops measuring stations aboard the vessel in Peterhead harbour.

Time permitting the vessel will steam during the afternoon of 25 Jan to fishing grounds relatively close by and carry out a shakedown haul. The vessel will then steam offshore to the Fladen/North Fladen grounds and thereafter selectivity data will be collected for the different test configurations.

Selectivity will be measured by using the twin trawl method. Initially the port trawl (the Control) will sample the total population of fish and nephrops available on the ground using a small (40 mm) mesh codend. The starboard trawl (the Test) will have one of the three experimental gear configurations (above) attached. Catches from the Test will be compared to those from the Control. A swap-over of the relative positions on the twin-rig of the Test and Control will take place half way through the trials.

The main target species will be cod, haddock, whiting, hake, plaice, witch, nephrops and all species of skate. Other species may be additionally targeted as time and conditions permit.

The intention is to change the test configurations every two days to allow for variation in catch composition over the experimental period. A scientific derogation has been obtained permitting fishing without a square mesh panel and use of the small mesh codends. It will also allow the landing any marketable fish which will be offset against the cost of the charter.

Ship's accommodation will be used throughout the fishing trials. A call at an appropriate port will be made approximately 2-3 February to allow landing of catch. The cruise will end at Fraserburgh/Peterhead on 8* February when staff and equipment will return to Aberdeen.

Normal contacts will be maintained with the Laboratory.

Contact details for the Fruitful Bough:

0033 640 047 125 (satphone)

01779 477 111 (J.R.R Fishselling Ltd)

fruitfulbough@ocens.net (email for short messages)

Submitted:
J Drewery
18 January 2010

Approved:
I Gibb
20 January 2010