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Charter Fishing Vessel Solstice (FR 942)

Cruise 0306H

REPORT

20 September – 4 October 2006

Personnel

R J Kynoch (In charge)
I Penny
E Armstrong
R Campbell

Objectives

1. To measure the selectivity of a 95mm diamond mesh codend with a 120mm square mesh panel (SMP) positioned at 13-18m from the codline.
2. To measure the selectivity of a 95mm diamond mesh codend with a 120mm SMP positioned at 4-9m from the codline.
3. To measure the selectivity of an 80mm diamond mesh codend with an 80mm SMP positioned 15-18m from the codline.

Narrative

Staff and equipment joined Solstice at Fraserburgh on 20 September 2006. Staff commenced rigging the fishing gear, wheelhouse instrumentation and fish measuring station aboard the vessel alongside Fraserburgh harbour. Due to the prevailing weather conditions the vessel sailed during the evening of 20 September to *Nephrops* fishing grounds in the Moray Firth. Two selectivity hauls were made on these grounds during the 21 September. Thereafter the vessel sailed to *Nephrops* grounds in the 'Fladdens' (ICES Area IV) approximately 90nmiles NE of Fraserburgh and continued to carry out selectivity hauls for the remainder of the cruise. One fish/*Nephrops* landing was made into Lerwick on 28 September and the cruise ended at Fraserburgh on 4 October with all staff and equipment returning to Aberdeen.

Results

A total of 26 selectivity hauls were made during the cruise of which 2 had to be discounted due to fouling of the gear. The number of hauls made for Objectives 1 to 3 were; 11, 8 and 5 respectively. For most hauls haddock, whiting and to a lesser extent cod were encountered along with lemon sole, witch, megrim and *Nephrops*. A full statistical analysis will be carried out in the Laboratory to determine the selective properties for each test case.

R Kynoch
30 January 2007