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MFV Marigold

Cruise 1107H

REPORT

31 October- 9 November 2007

Ports

Loading: Fraserburgh, 31 October

Unloading: Fraserburgh, 9 November

Personnel

I Penny (In Charge)

D J Bova

J Mair

Fishing Gear: Anglerfish Trawl BT 195; Vessels own Type Morgere 5.1m² 1600Kgs trawl doors.

Objectives

1. To undertake a nationally co-ordinated demersal trawling survey of anglerfish in the North Sea (Eastern survey area).
2. To obtain temperature data at each trawling station.
3. To obtain net parameter and bottom contact data for each trawling station.

Procedures

This trawl survey follows a set of protocols drawn up by an industry science survey planning group made up of FRS scientists and fishing representatives. These protocols share much in common with the sampling regimes described in FRS' standing instructions for demersal trawl surveys.

The cruise track and sampling locations were delivered to the skipper prior to departure. An approximate map of the sampling area giving the locations of all of the co-ordinated surveys is appended as Figure 1.

Trawling

One haul of 60 minutes duration was made at each sampling station; trawling operations occurred in waters up to a maximum of 500 m. Daily start times were approximately 0500 and continued until approximately 2100. The Scanmar net monitoring system was used to monitor wing spread, door spread and distance covered during each haul. A bottom contact sensor was mounted on the footrope.

Catches were worked up according to the protocols for the FRS anglerfish surveys, which are similar in principle to FRS standing instructions.

Hydrography

A minilog temperature/depth recording unit was deployed on the trawl at each station.

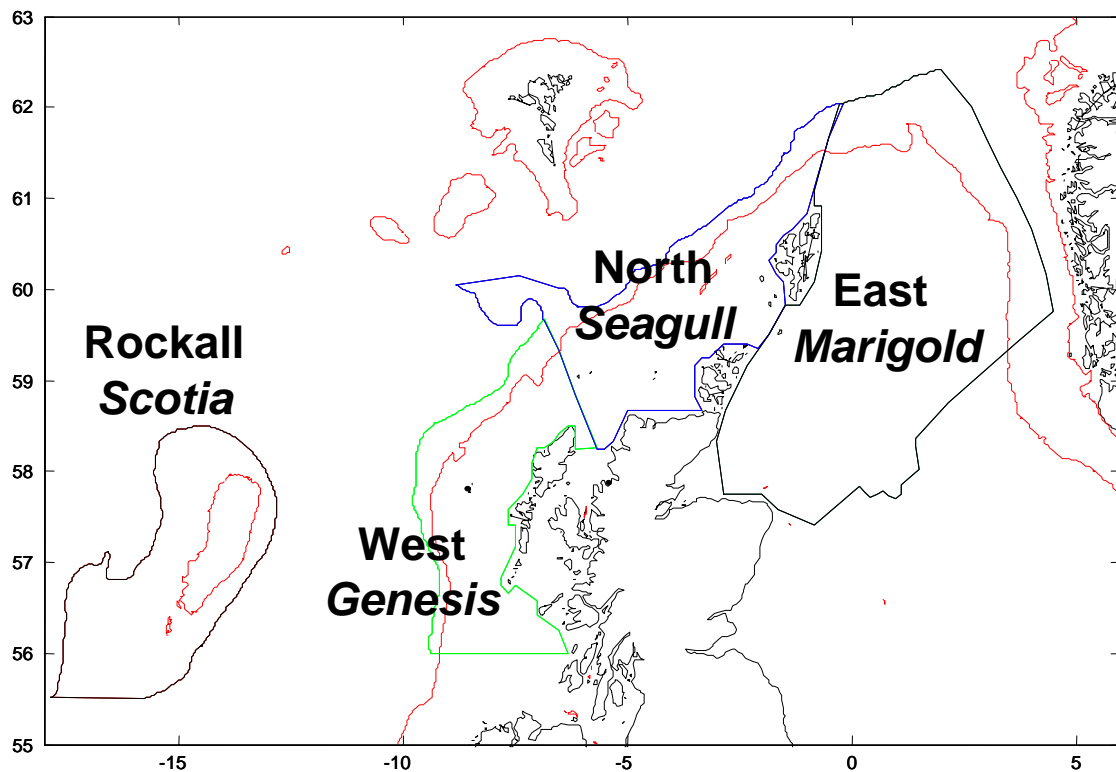


Figure 1: Map of the Northern Shelf of the North East Atlantic with the areas to be surveyed by the four vessels (in italics) in the forthcoming anglerfish survey. (The red lines indicate the approximate position of the 200 m depth contour).

Narrative

Marigold departed from Fraserburgh at 1800 on Wednesday 31 October, approximately 6 hours behind schedule due to rigging. *Marigold* commenced fishing the following day at approximately 1400. The location of the first haul was more than 5 nm from the stated position but it was sampled and deemed valid. *Marigold* made good progress until the early hours of 3 November when wind speeds increased, reducing inter-station time. The weather remained changeable over the next three days but did not hinder the vessels progress too much, with the original time deficit recovered.

The *Marigold* proceeded to repeat the first survey location when a strong West North Westerly gale developing during the evening of 6 November. This weather was to continue for 24 hours: it moderated only briefly before a reported North Westerly force 11/12 was due. After consultation with the other vessels involved in the survey the decision was made late on 7 of November not to precede to the last station, abandon the survey and make directly for Fraserburgh where *Marigold* docked at 0900 on 8 November.

Laboratory transport arrived at 1100 on 8 November and off loaded the equipment and staff. Laboratory staff arrived back at the Marine Laboratory at 1430. The fishing gear was removed from the vessel on 9 November by Jackson Trawls.

In the Eastern survey area the *Marigold* completed 29 hauls, all of which were valid. 237 individual monkfish were sampled giving a total live weight of 556 kg. 282 Megrims were sampled for a live weight of 146 kg.

Iain Penny
5 November 2008