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MFV Enterprise (BF1)

Cruise 2307H

REPORT

11-19 March 2008

Ports

Loading: Kinlochbervie, 11 March

Unloading: Kinlochbervie, 19 March

Personnel

I Penny

J Drewery

P Gibson

Objectives

1. To undertake a discreet trawling survey of Cod inside and around the West of Scotland closure "Windsock".
2. To undertake catch data for other key species:
 - Haddock
 - Whiting
 - Saithe
 - Anglerfish
 - Megrin
 - Lemon Sole (time permitting)
 - Plaice (time permitting)

Narrative

Marine Laboratory Staff arrived in Kinlochbervie on the evening of Monday 10 March and loaded the Enterprise at 0900 on the morning of the 11 March. Sailing was delayed until 1800 as a visual reconnaissance of the first trawl location was to be carried out in daylight the following morning. This was due to the reported presence of static gear in the area, however this proved not to be required as the crab vessel in question was contacted on the evening of the 11 March and exact locations for his gear was provided. It should be noted that two other crab vessels were working within the closure and the location of their static gear would impact on the locations targeted during the cruise. This information was made available to the Skipper of Enterprise and Marine Lab Staff for the duration of the cruise.

The weather and sea state on Wednesday 12 March deteriorated as the day progressed and fishing was abandoned after two successful trawls had been conducted within the western side of the closure, commencing at 0500 the following day. The second haul of the day was declared invalid due to problems on shooting causing the vessel to stray inside the closure

during the trawl, the intention being to take the sample from outside the closure. The survey proceeded unhindered for the remainder of the survey managing to complete the program and recover the trawls lost earlier in the cruise.

The Enterprise docked in Kinlochbervie at 0230 19 March, with staff returning to the Marine Lab at 0830 the same day.

It was decided to conduct historical trawls from diary information from within the closure and close outside on locations similar in substrate and depth. As the “windsock” closure is such a large area a general plan was laid out based on sub areas of hard and soft ground. It should be noted that large areas were not covered due to static gear concentrations and time constraints. The trawl locations from out with the closure were to form a real time comparison with the samples from within the closure and with this in mind were made as similar as practicable.

Results

Enterprise completed 19 trawls of 3 – 3 and a half hours duration 18 of these being valid, with 480 Cod otoliths collected.

A haul summary can be seen in Figure 1 giving information on the three sub areas and completed hauls.

Figure 2 shows basic results for the cruise and the species sampled.

A plot of the trawl tracks Figure 3 is available and shows static gear locations as well as indicating substrate type.

In addition to the data collected on the survey, diary information has been collected from 5 vessels totalling 31 years collectively.

I Penny
24 April 2008

Figure 1

	Location	Substrate	No. of Valid Hauls	No. inside	No. outside
Sub Area 1	West of 5 th 45 minutes W	Hard	5	3	3
Sub Area 2	between 5 th 45 minutes W & 4 th 42 minutes W	Soft	6	3	3
Sub Area 3	East of 4 th 42 minutes W	Hard	6	3	3

Figure 2

Species	Total Nos./hour	Nos./ hour inside	Nos./hour outside	Total weight/hour	Weight inside/hour	Weight outside/hour
Cod	18.4	13.6	4.8	67.8	57.2	10.5
Haddock	355.1	194.9	160.2	131.3	77.7	53.5
Whiting	38.0	25.6	12.4	20.7	14.7	6.0
Saithe	3.7	0.9	2.8	6.7	2.1	4.5
L.Piscatorius	18.6	10.3	8.3	30.3	16.1	14.2
L.Budegassa	0.7	0.5	0.2	1.6	1.0	0.6
Megrim	29.1	10.4	18.6	12.4	4.8	7.7
Plaice	17.0	3.2	13.7	3.7	0.9	2.8
Lemon Sole	12.6	5.6	7.0	3.0	1.3	1.7

Figure 2 (a)

Total Bulk kgs	Bulk inside kgs	Bulk outside Kgs
30350	19750	10600

Figure 3

Windsock survey, Enterprise, March 2008

