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RV "Aora"

Charter Cruise

Report

6-10 July 1987

Personnel

F G Howard	SSO
C W Shand	SO
TG McInnes	Principal Photographer

Objectives

1. To make a colour video tape recording of Nephrops grounds in the Clyde.

2. To make a similar recording of scallop grounds.

3. To make trawl hauls at three set stations in the Clyde to obtain Nephrops size composition data.

4. To take video film of gear being shot and hauled, and of general deck work.

Narrative

Messrs Howard and Shand joined "Aora" in Millport at 0830 on 6 July. Equipment was loaded, the camera sledge rigged and "Aora" sailed at 1230 proceeding to Nephrops grounds off Ailsa Craig.

A trawl haul, using BT126D, and two camera sledge tows were made on 6 and 7 July, before steaming northwards to north-east Arran where a further sledge tow was made.

T McInnes joined "Aora" at Millport on 8 July, and further sledge tows were made on queen and Nephrops grounds around Cumbrae and north Arran. Mr McInnes took video film of shooting and hauling the camera sledge and the trawl. Trawl hauls were made off north-east Arran and Cumbrae. Mr McInnes left the vessel on 9 July, and the cruise ended in Millport at 2000 on 10 July.

Results

Trawling:

Nephrops catch rates ranged from 12.5 kg per half-hour tow at Ailsa Craig, to 8.5 kg/½ hr off Cumbrae, and 8.0 kg/½ hr at north-east Arran. The catches were analysed to determine sex and size composition, ovary maturity and pre-moult frequency.

Photographic work:

Video recordings were made of Nephrops and queen grounds in different areas. Visibility was poor off north-east Arran, but otherwise good. The TV system developed a fault on 8 July, and picture quality deteriorated due to interference. Despite replacing the TV cable, the problem persisted, and only a limited amount of good quality underwater footage was obtained. In air video recordings of shooting and hauling the different gears and of the vessel manoeuvring were taken.

F G Howard
1 September 1987