

R1/3

In Confidence - not to be quoted without reference to the Laboratory

Charter trip MV "Argosy"

MB

Report

15 August - 2 September 1985

Objective

To obtain information on the selectivity of different sizes of cod-ends.

Narrative

The scientific staff joined "Argosy" at Peterhead on the evening of 15 August. While the vessel was taking on ice and fuel the opportunity was taken to attach an 80 mm cod-end and small mesh cover to the ships net. Fishing commenced on the Turbot Bank the following morning and the vessel worked uninterrupted until the afternoon of 20 August having completed 28 hauls. The vessel returned to Peterhead where a catch of 325 boxes were landed. "Argosy" was due to sail on the afternoon of 23 August but due to continuing bad weather the vessel was unable to leave Peterhead until 25 August. On 27 August with the weather deteriorating it was agreed that the opportunity should be taken to land the vessel's catch at Peterhead. "Argosy" was back on the fishing grounds at the Maureen Field on the morning of 29 August where she worked uninterrupted until the afternoon of 1 September. At mid-day on 2 September "Argosy" returned to Peterhead where the gear was unloaded and the scientific staff returned to the Laboratory.

Results

A total of 60 hauls covering 3 nominal cod-end sizes were completed. Each cod-end was measured prior to use and on several occasions immediately after a haul.

Fish from the small mesh cover and the cod-end were measured from each haul in order to obtain length compositions for the main demersal species. The catch varied in size with 226 boxes being the largest quantity retained in the cod-end and 20 boxes being the most obtained from the small mesh cover.

Cod-end measurements (mm)

Nominal size	Average wet measurement	No of hauls
80	78.55	12
80	82.80	9
90	89.20	20
100	101.27	19

The help and advice provided by the skipper and crew of the "Argosy" was greatly appreciated by the scientific staff and ensured the completion of a successful trip.

K A Coull

28 January 1986