

In Confidence

Chartered Commercial Fishing Experiments

"Aries" BCK 126

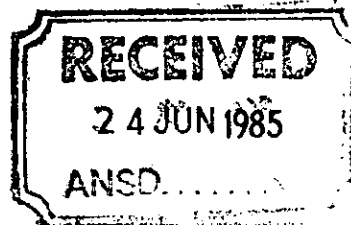
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Report

20 May to 7 June 1985

Personnel

J Main	SSO	20 May - 7 June
G Sangster	HSO	20 May - 7 June
C Hall	HSO	20 May - 25 May
U Jeshansen	(Visitor)	20 May - 25 May

Objective

Experiments will be conducted to improve the separation of shrimp from pout using a modified separating panel in an Iver Christensen shrimp trawl.

Narrative

The RCTV and diving gear were loaded on "Aries" on Thursday 16 May and the vehicle was prepared during Saturday and Sunday 18 and 19 May.

The charter started on Monday 20 May and "Aries" sailed daily from Buckie during the first week. Diving observations were made in shallow water in Cullen Bay and deep water observations were made using the RCTV approximately 12 miles off Buckie in 102m water.

During the second and third weeks "Aries" sailed to the Fladen Grounds 130 miles NE Buckie and fished in 150m of water. Here a still camera was attached to the net and triggered by remote control.

The charter finished on Friday 7 June after diving in Cullen Bay to make final measurements and observations of the trawl. Unfortunately on that final day the water and weather conditions were bad due to the Northerly winds and no results were obtained. The skipper has very kindly offered to take us out at the end of one of his own trips to make these final observations. He has allowed us to leave the separating panel in the net which has been left ashore until that time.

Permission has been obtained from Head Office to observe the net in Cullen Bay.

Results

During the first week diving observations showed that a large amount of netting would have to be removed from the width of the separating panel (ie as much as 160 meshes at the front and tapering down to the entrance of the codends).

Unfortunately no shrimp were present on any of the grounds fished in the Moray Firth but reasonably good quantities of small haddock, whiting, pout, herring, sprat and flat fish were caught. The catches from the codends and the television pictures both showed that good separation was achieved. Most of the roundfish went into the top codend with the separating fishing line set at 90cms above the footrope and 90cms behind it.

Weeks 2 and 3 were fished on the Fladen Grounds where both shrimp and fish were obtained. In 150m of water most fish were collected in the top codend. Shrimp separation was still not as required with this modified panel, many shrimp were passing into the upper codend. A still camera was mounted above the fishing line of the separation panel. These films may show us the distribution of shrimp in the mouth area of the net when they are developed.

During the second weekend 1 and 2 June a further alteration was made to the separating panel and this slightly improved the separation of the shrimp from the fish.

Light levels were recorded at the surface, just below the surface and just off the seabed in 150m of water on the Fladen Grounds.

The results of all the material collected are now being analysed.

J Main

18 June 1985