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Cooperative Project: SFIA/DAFS Observations on Twin Trawls

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REPORT

CYGNUS STAR (Charter)

21-27 June 1987

Personnel

J Main	SSO
G Sangster	HSO
W Mojsiewicz	SO
K Ballantyne	SO
K Arkley	SFIA (in charge)

Objective

To observe, using the divers underwater vehicle, the behaviour of a twin trawl (380 x 70 mm Dual Purpose) rigged for a two warp operation.

Narrative

Staff worked daily from Lochinver on the "Cygnus Star" on grounds where diving operations could take place in shallow water. Tows were restricted due to bag nets at both ends of the bay and by the activities of creel boats.

Some time was spent in achieving a suitable method of handling and shooting the twin trawls over the stern but after a few hauls everything worked well.

Due to increasing onshore winds on Thursday 25 June diving was cancelled and the vessel towed in deep water. With the additional wires using a twin rig less warp was carried on the winch barrels to allow for this bulk, so restricting the depth of water the vessel could tow in.

The gear was off loaded on Friday 26th and returned to Aberdeen on Saturday 27 June.

Results

The gear was successfully rigged and observed underwater. The nets were examined using both free towing techniques and by using the TUV II.

Slight modifications had to be made to the rigging to optimise performance giving both nets a spread of 8 metres on the top wingends and 12 metres on the lower wingends.

The centre skid designed by Ken Arkley (SFIA) worked well keeping good ground contact.

The nets gave similar catches of approximately 10 baskets of bulk per net for a 1 hour tow in shallow water. This consisted mainly of small flatfish and skate. The gear was also observed whilst turning. Video film and still photographs were taken and copies of both have been sent to SFIA for further analysis.

J Main  
14 August 1987