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Charter Vessel, "Dawn Sky"

Report

23 August-3 September 1987

Personnel

A W Newton	SSO (in charge)
K A Coull	HSO
C P Whitworth	SO
P Clark	ASO

Objective

To undertake a routine demersal trawling survey on Rockall Bank.

Narrative

The "Dawn Sky" was due to sail from Aberdeen on 21 August but due to difficulties with the main winch sailing was delayed until 23 August. After sea trials off Fraserburgh, the "Dawn Sky" proceeded to Scrabster for some minor engineering work and then proceeded to Rockall. Trawling commenced on Wednesday 26 August and continued, whenever the weather permitted, until 31 August. The "Dawn Sky" returned to Aberdeen on 3 September.

Results

A total of 22 one hour hauls was made with a 48' Aberdeen trawl fitted with a 30 mm small mesh cover. Trawl stations were worked all over the Rockall Bank, including Bryony Bank, and as far south as Empress of Britain Bank. The principal species encountered was haddock although the catch rate was significantly down on the previous two years. Table 1 shows the catch per 10 hours fishing for 1 to 4 year old haddock for the last 3 years. The only other species caught in large numbers were Micromesistius poutassou (especially on grounds over 100 fathoms), Sebastes viviparus (large numbers on the Empress of Britain Bank) and Trisopterus minutus. One trawl 60 SW of Rockall yielded 85 baskets of saithe; the majority being in the size range 87-100 cms (6-14 years).

A Newton

2 October 1987

TABLE 1

Numbers of haddock per 10 hrs fishing at Rockall

Year/Age	0+	1+	2+	3+	4+
1987	698	11672	2917	8530	105
1986	3577	17309	62196	85	139
1985	489	51284	214	31	4218

Dawn Sky -- Track record at Rockall August 1987

