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Charter Vessel MV *Endeavour* BF 515

Charter Cruise 3701H

REPORT

18-28 February 2002

Sailing: Kinlochbervie

Landing: Kinlochbervie

Personnel

K J Peach (In charge)

D O'Driscoll

C Laurenson NAFC

Fishing Gear

Vessels own commercial twin rig trawls with 115 mm cod-ends

Objectives

1. To map and compare the distribution of juvenile monkfish *L. piscatorius* and *L. budegassa* targeting eight recognised commercial clean ground fishing areas along the west coast.
2. Collect data on the biological characteristics of both species.
3. Collect skin samples and otoliths from *L. piscatorius* for genetic analysis, stock discrimination and ageing.

Target Areas

1. Barra Hole
2. Stanton Banks
3. St Kilda
4. Butt of Lewis
5. Sulisker Bight
6. Sule Skerry
7. Noup
8. Otter Bank

Narrative

Endeavour sailed at 2100 hours on 18 February and headed in a southerly direction to the first trawling position 5636'N 0720'W arriving at 1600 hours on 19 February. Fishing commenced immediately and two hauls were completed in the Barra Hole area before worsening weather forced fishing operations to cease for 15 hours. During a short lull in the weather one more haul in the Barra Hole area followed by four hauls in the Stanton Banks were completed before once again the weather was the victor. With a full westerly gale blowing and the forecast predicting a further 48 hours of the same it was decided to drop the St Kilda stations and head back up the Minch to the Butt Of Lewis stations. *Endeavour*

arrived two miles east of Stornoway at 1000 hours on 22 February and with 70 knot winds blowing it was decided to go along side to affect some minor repairs and wait for the weather to abate. *Endeavour* sailed from Stornoway at 0600 hours on the 23rd and dodged north to 5840'N 0636'W and with a decreasing forecast fishing recommenced at 1300 hours. The remaining five areas were sampled over the next five days with the vessel returning to Kinlochberrie at 1100 hours on 28 February to land her catch.

Results

A total of 27 three hour hauls were completed at seven of the eight target areas with the vessel covering 786 miles during the survey (see Map 1). Due to poor weather only three hauls were completed at the Barra Hole with the St Kilda stations being dropped completely. Twin rig hopper nets were deployed throughout the survey with 115 mm codends and extensions. *L. piscatorius* was caught in all hauls and *L. budegassa* in all but one (see Table 1); as expected *L. budegassa* was more abundant in the South Minch.

A total of 1566 *L. piscatorius* were caught, all of which were sampled for length, total weight, gutted weight, liver weight, gonad weight, sex and maturity. Otoliths were collected from 803 fish for ageing and stock discrimination. Skin samples were preserved from 390 fish for genetic analysis.

A total of 157 *L. budegassa* were caught, all of which were sampled for length, total weight, gutted weight, sex and maturity to augment the Marine Laboratory's weight length database.

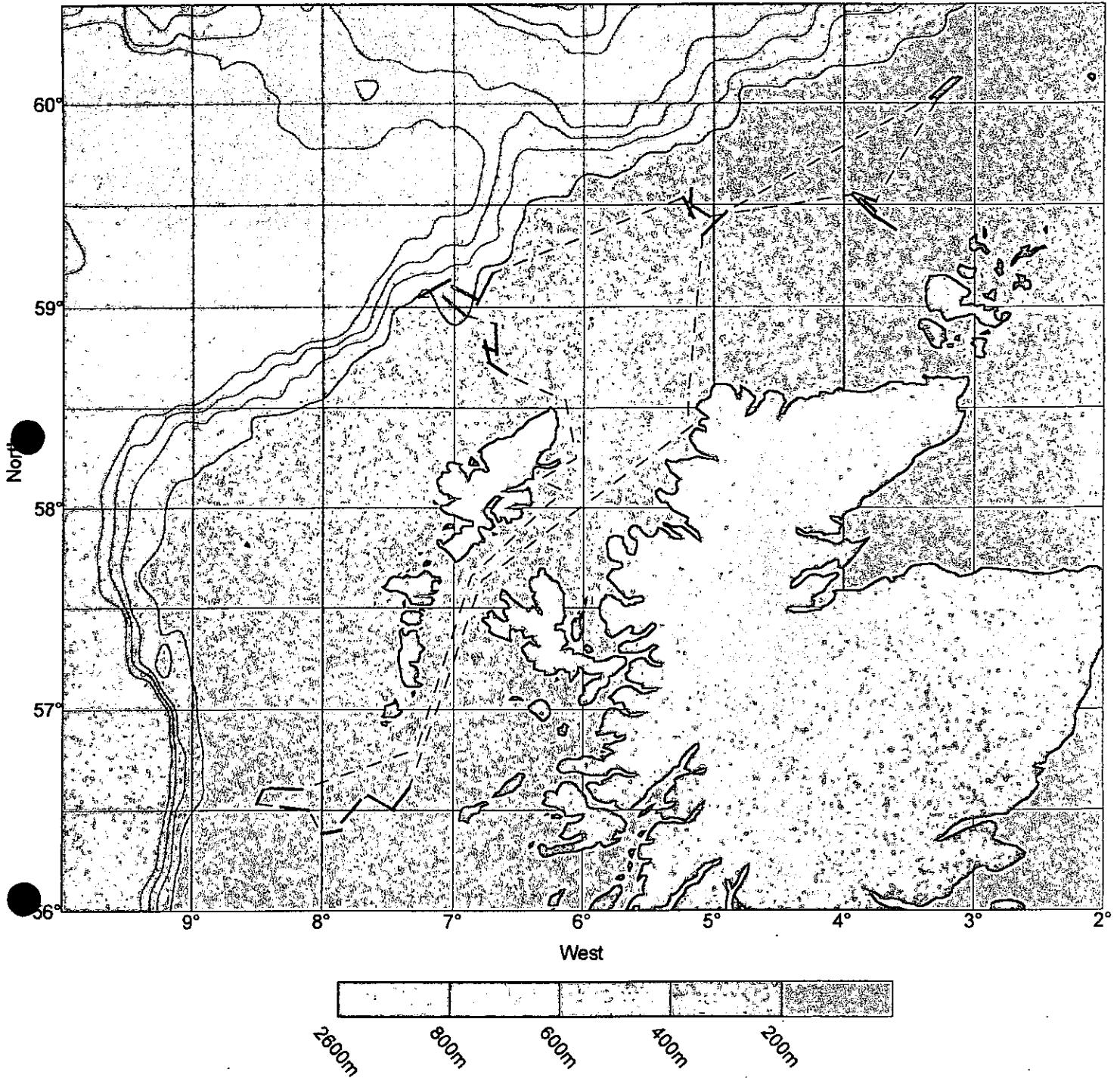
J A Morrison
4 March 2002

TABLE 1.

Monkfish catch rates

Area	Hours fishing	Pisc	Ban	Pisc/hr	Ban/hr	Mean len
Barra hole	9	119	8	13.22	0.89	39.93
Stanton	12	169	84	14.08	7.00	35
Butt	12	355	4	29.58	0.33	40.06
Bight	12	282	32	23.50	2.67	46.58
Sule	12	224	18	18.67	1.50	43.51
Noup -	12	219	8	18.25	0.67	38.84
Otter	12	198	3	16.50	0.25	46.1

Map 1. Endeavour Juvenile Monkfish Charter 2002 Survey Track & Trawling Positions



K.J.Peach 28-Feb-02