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Not to be cited without prior reference to the Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen

Charter Vessel RV *Forth Ranger*

Charter 0695H

REPORT

10-12 October 1995

Personnel

A McIntosh	HSO (in charge)
R Castro	Visitor

Fishing gear

Agassiz Trawl (provided by FRPB)

Objective

Fish sampling for National Monitoring Plan

Out turn days per project: 3 days BGG1

Objectives

1. To sample viviparous blenny (*Zoarces viviparus*) from selected sites in the Firth of Forth.
2. To obtain bottom sediments, using a Day grab, from the trawl sites.

Narrative

Scientific staff joined the *Forth Ranger* at Port Edgar at 0730 on 10 October. Because of the likely deterioration in weather later in the week, it was decided to sail to the Kingston Hudds site as a first option. On arrival at this site, and after making an assessment of the prevailing conditions, it was decided that in the interests of safety, the worsening weather precluded deployment and safe recovery of the fishing gear. Passage was made back to Port Edgar, where, under more sheltered conditions, some fishing was possible. Four passes were made along the trawl track providing a total sample of 20 Blenny. Duplicate bottom sediments were taken at the start, mid and end points of the trawl. As Port Edgar is tidal, no further work was possible that day and the boat was tied up alongside at 1630.

Scientific staff rejoined the *Forth Ranger* at 0730 on 11 October and proceeded to make passage for the Lomgannet site where six passes along the trawl track were required for a sample of 20 Blenny. Duplicate bottom sediments were taken at the start, mid and end points of the trawl path. Fishing was carried out at the Bo'ness and Tancred sites but no

fish were obtained. As no further work was possible that day the boat was tied up alongside at 1630.

Scientific staff rejoined the *Forth Ranger* at 0730 on 12 October and proceeded to make passage for the Blackness site where four passes along the trawl track were required for a sample of 20 Blenny. Duplicate bottom sediments were taken at the start, mid and end points of the trawl path. Further fishing attempts at the Tancred site yielded no fish and the programme was abandoned at 1300. On berthing, all scientific equipment and biological samples were taken ashore.

Results

All samples taken were treated according to standard protocols. Analyses will be carried out in the Marine Laboratory and results presented in due course.

A McIntosh (OIC)
25 October 1995

Trawl tracks and grab sampling positions - 0695H

