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

Charter Vessel SV *Forth Ranger*

Charter 3295H

REPORT

29-31 January 1996

Personnel

A McIntosh HSO (in charge)
C Robinson Visitor

Fishing Gear

Agassiz Trawl (provided by FRPB)

Objective

Fish sampling for National Monitoring Plan.

To sample viviparous blenny (*Zoarces viviparus*) from selected sites in the Firth of Forth.

Out turn days per project: 3 days BGG1

Narrative

Scientific staff joined the *Forth Ranger* at Port Edgar at 0830 on 29 January. Because of the prevailing weather conditions precluding successful sampling at the Kingston Hudds site, passage was made to Longannet, where, under more sheltered conditions, fish sampling was possible. Four passes were made along the previously sampled trawl track. Fish were measured, the livers excised and stored in liquid nitrogen and the carcasses stored frozen for further analysis to be carried out later. As the catch rate was poor, passage was made back to Port Edgar where five passes were made along the previously sampled trawl track. As Port Edgar is tidal, no further work this day was possible and the boat was tied up along side at 1630.

As the weather conditions were not improving, the same sampling programme was repeated over the next two successive days. As the forecast was not encouraging for the fourth day, and because of the poor catches experienced, it was decided to terminate the sampling on Wednesday at 1630 when, on berthing, all scientific equipment and biological samples were taken ashore.

Results

Twenty-eight trawls from two sites returned a total of 36 fish that were sampled. 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)

9 February 1996

Trawl tracks and grab sampling positions - 3295H

