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Charter Fishing Vessel *Golden West* FR363

## REPORT

Charter Cruise No 0393H

7-18 June 1993

### Personnel

J H B Robertson	HSO (in charge)
R J Kynoch	SO
P J Barkel	PTO
H Ozbilgin	Visitor (7-11 June)
N Lowry	Visitor (14-18 June)

### Objectives

1. To measure the effect on cod-end selectivity of an increase in twine diameter from 3.5 to 6 mm, using the hooped cover method. Underwater television will be used to ensure proper rigging of the cover.
2. To obtain data to assess the variance in selection parameter estimates due to catch sampling procedures.

Out-turn days per project: 10; IBD1.

### Narrative

The cruise started in Fraserburgh on 7 June 1993. Calm weather conditions predominated for the cruise duration. Consistent catches of haddock with some whiting were obtained on grounds in the Moray Firth within 10 to 20 mls NW of Fraserburgh. The trip ended in Fraserburgh on 18 June.

### Results

A total of 18 hauls were obtained of which five were excluded from analysis because of gear damage or asymmetry. Haddock was the main species captured and on which analyses were conducted. Selection curves were fitted to the data from the valid hauls using a linear logistic function taking into account between haul variation. A significant reduction in L50 of 1.3 cm was found when the thick twine cod-end was used compared to the thinner twine. The thick twine cod-end therefore retains greater numbers of undersized haddock. Further analysis is being conducted on the data to assess the variance in selection parameter estimates due to sampling procedures.

J H B Robertson  
28 February 1994