

R1/3

Not to be cited without prior reference to the Laboratory

Charter Fishing Vessel *Heather Sprig* BCK 181

## REPORT

Charter Cruises No 0493H, 0593H

26 July-20 August 1993

### Personnel

J H B Robertson	HSO (in charge)
C D Hall	SSO (16-20 August)
S E B Thain	SO (26-30 July)
R J Kynoch	SO (16-20 August)
J Donald	ASO (2-13 August)
P J Barkel	PTO (26 July-4 August; 12-13 August)

### Objective

To gather whole prawn trawl selectivity data (L50, selection factor and range) for 70 mm and 80 mm mesh trawls using the twin trawl technique.

### Out-turn Days per Project

---

20 days IBF1

### Narrative

The cruise started at Buckie on 26 July 1993. Commercial quantities of *Nephrops* were obtained in the South Deep area of the Moray Firth (ICES Area IVa) between Buckie and Macduff for the entire cruise. Weather conditions remained stable with calm to light winds for the whole period. The cruise ended at Buckie on 20 August.

### Results

A total of 36 sample tows were obtained. The data are being analysed using recently created models of between haul variability to ascertain whether differences in L50 between the two mesh sizes used are detectable. Underwater video observations determined symmetrical behaviour of the twin trawls and a new miniature underwater colour television camera produced useful fish (haddock and whiting) and *Nephrops* behaviour patterns.

J H B Robertson

1 March 1993