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Charter fishing vessel *Heather Sprig* BCK 181

Charter cruise 2095H

REPORT

17-28 July 1995

Personnel

J H B Robertson	HSO (in charge)
P J Barkel	PTO
H Ozbilgin	PhD Student
A Kallianiolis	Institute of Marine Biology, Crete (24-28 July)

Objective

To measure the selectivity (L50, selection range and factor) of a 100 mm mesh cod-end and a 95 mm square mesh window with and without contrasting black netting aft of the window.

Out-turn days per project: 10 days IBD1

Narrative

Shore rigging of fishing gear and RCTV (Remote Controlled Television Vehicle) at Buckie was complete by Monday 17-July: ~~(the vessel-owners had been kind enough to allow access to the vessel outwith the charter period to set up equipment).~~ During the same day, the gear was checked at sea using the RCTV to make direct underwater observation to ensure that the two small mesh covers were flowing correctly and were held clear of the extension and cod-end by the use of encircling hoops. The vessel then proceeded to fishing grounds off Fraserburgh where adequate quantities of haddock and whiting were found for the entire experiment. The work was conducted daily from Fraserburgh during daylight hours. Staff returned to Aberdeen for the weekend of 22-23 July. The cruise ended at Fraserburgh on 28 July when staff returned to Aberdeen.

Results

Seventeen hauls were made, nine using the black extension and eight using the green extension. The selection results are being analysed at the Laboratory. The RCTV was deployed during four hauls to make fish behaviour observations at the extension and cod-end. Due to inadequate light levels only three hours of observations were obtained without the use of lights on the RCTV. However, lights were briefly required during haul one (in very dark conditions) to observe that the gear was correctly rigged. Light levels were never high enough to make observations with the miniature camera. The behavioural observations are being analysed at the Laboratory.

J H B Robertson
27 October 1995