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SFIA Charter

Charter Fishing Vessel *Heather Sprig* BCK 181

REPORT

14-18 March 1994

Personnel

J H B Robertson	HSO (in charge Marine Laboratory staff)
P J Barkel	PTO

Objective

To assist *Seafish* in the underwater filming of a twin trawl system to ensure correct rigging and gear performance of the two nets which will both have horizontal separating panels and double cod-ends.

Narrative

The cruise started at Buckie on 14 March 1994 when the RCTV equipment was set up on board vessel over the next two days. SFIA personnel joined ship on 16 March and fishing gear was rigged but bad weather prevented sea trials. Underwater television trials commenced on 17 March on the Bellans grounds of the Moray Firth and continued on the 18 March. RCTV equipment was dismantled and transported from Buckie on 19 March.

Results

Two observation tows were achieved in water depths of 31 m to 46 m with 183 m warp aft. The first tow demonstrated problems with the lower wing rigging of both twin trawls and of the dog ropes. The wings were wrapped once round the groundgear and the dog ropes were too tight. Gear modifications resulted in correction of the problems. Reasonable to good visibility during the observations allowed full film coverage inside the mouth and along the full length to the cod-ends of both trawls. Separator panel rigging was satisfactory with the two gusset strops set at 1 m length. Groundgear bottom contact at speeds from 2.5 to 3 knots was good.

J H B Robertson

21 April 1994