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Charter Fishing Vessel *JEANNIE STELLA*

Cruise 0794H Part II

REPORT

11 May 1994

PERSONNEL

S D Heaney ASO (in charge)

Objectives

To disturb sediment and associated fauna in a precisely defined area along the west shore of Loch Gareloch using a rock hopper ground gear with no trawl attached.

Out turn days per project: 1 day

Narrative

Staff joined MFV *Jeannie Stella* at Gourock, Dunoon Ferry Pier at 0800 11 May and proceeded to the vicinity of Rhu Narrows in Loch Gareloch, arriving there at approximately 0850. Contact was then made with the Queen's Harbour Master at RN Faslane for permission to enter the upper area of Loch Gareloch. On receiving permission, the *Jeannie Stella* moved onto station on the west side of the loch and commenced disturbance operations at 0910. Tows were carried out all day, until 1550 when the vessel left the Gareloch and made for Gourock, arriving there at 1630.

Results

A total of ten, 45 minute trawls were completed during the day, each tow using a 75 m warp with an approximate vessel speed of two knots. All tow tracks were recorded on tape, by Decca plotter, to allow easy location of the work area in the future. Mud, evidence of epifaunal organisms and pieces of debris were all observed on parts of the trawl gear throughout the day indicating that the gear was digging into and having some effect on the bottom sediment and the local epifaunal community. The next disturbance cruise is scheduled for June 1994.

S D Heaney

30 May 1994