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Charter Fishing Vessel *Jeannie Stella*

REPORT

0794H Part 8

9 November 1994

Personnel

I D Tuck Research Assistant (in charge)

Objectives

To disturb the 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 net attached.

To measure spread of gear with SCANMAR units.

Narrative

Joined vessel *Jeannie Stella* at Clynder, Loch Gareloch at 0830 hrs 9 November, the vessel already having made contact 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 0845 hrs. Tows were carried out until 1515 hrs when the vessel returned the staff member to Clynder at 1545 hrs.

Out turn days per project: 1 day BGFZ

Results

A total of ten, 45 minute trawls were completed during the day, each tow using a 75 fm warp at an approximate vessel speed of two knots. All tow tracks were recorded to allow easy location of the work area in the future. The gear spread was successfully measured using SCANMAR units.

Mud, evidence of epifaunal organisms and pieces of debris were all observed on parts of the trawl gear indicating that the gear was digging into and having some effect on the bottom sediment and the local epifaunal community.

The next disturbance event is scheduled for 14 December 1994.

I D Tuck
16 November 1994