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Charter Fishing Vessel *Jeannie Stella*

0995H

REPORT

12 April 1995

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.

Narrative

Joined vessel *Jeannie Stella* at Clynder, Loch Gareloch at 0810 hours on 12 April, 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 0835 hours. Tows were carried out until 1445 hours when the vessel returned the staff member to Clynder at 1500 hours. Scanmar netsonde units were used to measure the spread of the gear on the seabed.

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 with an approximate vessel speed of two knots. All tow tracks were recorded 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 indicating that the gear was digging into and having some effect on the bottom sediment and the local epifaunal community. Gear spread was measured to be approximately 35 m.

This was the final disturbance event.

I D Tuck
21 April 1995