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CHARTER FISHING VESSEL *JEANNIE STELLA*

Charter Cruise 2893H/1

REPORT

12 January 1994

Personnel

M R Robertson HSO (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.

Out-turn Days Per Project: 1 day, BGF1

Narrative

Jeannie Stella sailed from her mooring in Loch Long at 0730 on the morning of 12 January and proceeded to the vicinity of Rhu Narrows in Loch Gareloch, arriving there at approximately 0915. 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 (see Fig. 1) and commenced disturbance operations at 0935. Tows were carried out all day, until 1530 when the vessel left the Gareloch and made for her mooring in Loch Long, arriving there at 1830.

Results

A total of seven, 45 minute trawls were completed during the day, each tow using a 75 m warp with an approximate vessel speed of 2 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. However, some problems were encountered with the trawl-gear as supplied by the Laboratory, namely the lack of swivels and the absence of D21 links; additional weights for the rock-hopper gear may also be required.

The above items will all be supplied before the next disturbance event scheduled for February 1994.

M R Robertson
1 March 1994

Figure 1: Map of the upper Clyde showing the towing area in Loch Gareloch

