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Charter Fishing Vessel *Jeannie Stella*

Charter Cruise 2893H/2

REPORT

9 February 1994

Personnel

M R Robertson HSO (in charge)

Objectives

To further disturb the sediment and associated fauna in a precisely defined area along the west shore of Loch Gareloch using a rockhopper groundgear with no trawl net attached.

Narrative

Jeannie Stella sailed from her mooring in Loch Long at 0730 hours on the morning of 9 February and proceeded to Gourock to allow the embarkation of the Marine Laboratory staff member. She then sailed for Rhu Narrows in Loch Gareloch, arriving there at approximately 0900 hours. On receiving permission from the Queen's Harbourmaster at RN Faslane, *Jeannie Stella* moved onto station on the west side of the loch and commenced operations at 0915 hours. Tows were again carried out all day until 1630 hours when the vessel left Gareloch and made for Gourock, arriving there at 1700 hours.

Out-turn Days per Project

1 day; BGF1

Results

A total of nine, 45 minute trawls were completed during the day, each tow using a 75 m warp with an approximate vessel speed of two knots.

Mud, evidence of epifaunal organisms and pieces of debris were again 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.

M R Robertson
30 March 1994