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Joint Project Between SOAFD Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen and DANI Fisheries Research Laboratory, Belfast

LOUGH FOYLE

REPORT

11-19 May 1993

Personnel

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Objective

To film and measure the selectivity characteristics of square mesh panels in whitefish nets and to assess the performance of grids in a Nephrops trawl with the aim of minimising the catch of juvenile prawns.

Narrative

After staff joined ship in Ayr at 1600 on 11 May, *Lough Foyle* sailed to Dundrum Bay in Northern Ireland to spend the next day fitting the RCTV system. An unsettled weather pattern gave periods of strong southerly winds during the cruise and four days were lost. Two days (ie 13 and 15 May) working with cameras was achieved and the cruise ended in Ayr on 19 May.

Results

Square mesh panels in whitefish nets were observed. Few whitefish appeared on the grounds but behaviour patterns of reasonable numbers of sprats were observed. Greater numbers escaped through the square meshes than the surrounding areas of diamond mesh netting. With the panel positioned directly in front of the straight extension the few whiting and haddock present were observed to rise upwards and through the square mesh panel confirming earlier observations. There was no time to measure the selectivity characteristics of the panels. Observation of grids in a Nephrops trawl were not made due to lack of time.

J H B Robertson
1 March 1994