

Indexed
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CHARTERED VESSEL "MORVENNA"

Report

25-30 October 1987

Personnel

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Objectives

1. To observe the behaviour of fish in a covered codend on a seine net whilst hauling.
2. To measure the speed of the net through the water in the final stages of hauling.

Narrative

The vessel was loaded and prepared for working on a daily basis from Wick on Monday 26 October. Due to poor weather conditions, diving operations were not possible on that day and on Wednesday 28 October.

The net used by the "Morvenna", a 520 Box seine, was observed, measured and filmed on Tuesday 27th in shallow water in Sinclair Bay. With the absence of roundfish the vessel moved into deeper water where the diving techniques had to be modified allowing only observations when the net was closed and towed near the surface. This technique for observation was used and found to be satisfactory for behaviour studies, becoming the standard for the remainder of the week.

Normal, narrow and wide codends were observed. The normal and narrow cases were also observed with covers.

The cruise was terminated early at the end of the first week, Friday 30 October, due to poor weather conditions and lack of roundfish in shallow water.

Results

The net had a headline height of 6 metres after the start of hauling. The headline slowly dropped to 5 metres for a short time before rising slowly to 8 metres when the wings of the seine net had closed.

The speed of the net through the water started at 0.6 knots and slowly increased to 1.6 knots with 2 coils of rope in. The speed continued to increase to 2.4 knots where it remained until the net was hauled. The vessel during the latter stages of the haul was going backwards at 1.9 knots and on one particular haul we recorded 2.8 knots. One very interesting haul with a narrow codend and a cover produced 200 boxes of mostly small whiting. This and other observations have been recorded on video tape for further analysis and will be edited for viewing.

J Main

17 November 1987