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Charter Vessel MV Ocean Gem BA 265

Charter Cruise 2401H

REPORT

18 November - 7 December 2001

#### Personnel

David J Bova Colin Duff

### Fishing Gear

Vessels own Dual purpose net fitted with rubber discs on the footrope with a 20 mm internal liner.

## **Objectives**

To undertake a survey within the Firth of Clyde.

- 1. To re-determine the inshore nursery areas for demersal and pelagic fish.
- 2. To collect stomach samples to study the feeding ecology of cod, haddock, whiting and saithe.
- 3. To collect DNA and otolith samples from cod, haddock, whiting and saithe for stock discrimination
- 4. To obtain additional knowledge on benthic species in the survey area.

#### **Narrative**

Ocean Gem commenced fishing operation from Troon on 19 November at 0830 hours. Troon was used as an operational base during the first week. Scientific staff were accommodated onshore through out the duration of the charter period. The first part of the survey concentrated on fishing in inshore waters of the East side of the Clyde coast from Irvine bay to south of Turnbery point until Friday the 23rd at when the vessel tied up in Troon for the weekend.

Staff rejoined the *Ocean Gem* at Tarbert, Loch Fyne on the 26th for the second week of the survey. Fishing was undertaken in the sea lochs associated with the northern part of the Clyde. Weather conditions restricted fishing operations in some areas. On Friday the 30th scientific staff disembarked at Tarbert for the weekend break and *Ocean Gem* proceeded to Troon.

Staff rejoined *Ocean Gem* on Monday the 3rd at Troon for the final week. Plans to proceed to Campbeltown were cancelled due to a severe south westerly gale and survey work was undertaken in the upper north east portion of the Clyde. The vessel being based at Rothesay until the weather moderated. Fishing operations were then carried out in the south west side of the Clyde on Wednesday the 5th in deteriorating weather conditions before docking at Campbeltown in order to commence working off Ailsa Craig for the following day. *Ocean Gem* then proceeded to fish on the south east side off the coast at

Ballantrea again in poor weather conditions. The charter terminated at Troon on Friday the 7th.

# **Results**

A total of 45 (15 minute) valid hauls were completed with all species caught being processed in accordance with standing instructions. Numbers caught per 15 minutes for the eleven main commercial species are shown in Table 1. Gives the Catch summary of fishing hauls are shown in Figure 1.

There were no freezer facilities on the vessel for the storage of stomach samples and collection of such samples was restricted to the later end of each week with 486 samples collected for feeding ecology. A total of 258 DNA and otolith samples were collected for stock discrimination.

D J Bova 28 January 2002

Table 1. Catch summary, numbers caught per 15 minutes

Haul   Depth   Cook   Haddock   Whiting   Herring   Sprat   Mackerel   PCook   Place   Dab   Hake   Saithe   1	الرمال	Donth	Cod	Haddock	\\/hiting	Herring	Sprat	Mackerel	PCod	Plaice	Dab	Hake	Saithe
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<sup>\*</sup>Not included in the table are the numbers of sand eels caught for the trip 1832.