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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	Cod	Haddock	Whiting	Herring	Sprat	Mackerel	PCod	Plaice	Dab	Hake	Saithe
1	13	350	188	1135					124	13		
2	11	21	198	220					8	8		
3	11											
4	11	5	4	42		240			5	2		
5	32	6	1335	817	241				9	41		
6	32		568	1267	3566	1130	2	26	2	4		
7	18	380	1496	153		247		123	2	1		2
8	16	112	980	213		102		31				
9	32	2	1400	480		25321		52	3	31		
10	12	68	1549	519	1212	1182			102	34		
11	22		314	455	1821	606			31	29		
12	40	5	77	335				30	4	9		
13	57	8	19	327				31	5	1	8	1
14	18	12	109	26				73	17	2		
15	26	21	410	171	525	2898		383	7	5		8
16	18	38	47	30		1221		170				29
17	21		1054	2093	1207			100	4	1	14	
18	32	22	282	159	175			23		16	1	
19	47	9	151	191	60			8	1	14		
20	58	34	296	214	41			97	1	29	15	1
21	32	2	210	452	64	144		3	22	24	1	
22	16	4	199	24		10295		2	1	10		
23	45	8	253	363	19			41	18	6	13	
24	23	2	265	38		478		4	3	1	2	
25	58	16	379	562				48	15		6	
26	16	16	24	19		992		2	1	5		
27	32	2	305	537	965		1	64	5	4	1	
28	139	1	1	34				34	4			
29	144		10	132				54			3	
30	18	36	126	174		2660	4	1	4	2		124
31	24	13	142	195			11	21	7	58		
32	29	13	2	167	207		12			27		4
33	47	15	40	83	8			13	4	78	13	
34	58											
35	59	7	68	232	2			12	13	55	4	
36	11	10		16	48	3474			6	2		
37	30	8	575	93	262			82	3	7	1	
38	32	5	181	262	151			173	3	4	1	
39	12	13		12		4708		2	2	2		
40	32		116	2299	183			32		1		
41	18		83	571				123		2		
42	43	3	418	1612				29			2	
43	34		78	1902	245			68		1		
44	20	66	437	1824	47							
45	23		311	420	396	4550		12				
	Total for Trip	1333	14700	20870	11445	60248	19	1967	436	529	85	169

*Not included in the table are the numbers of sand eels caught for the trip 1832.

Map 1 Trawl Positions