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Charter Fishing Vessel *Osprey III*, BF BF500

Cruise 0802H

REPORT

27-31 January 2003

Port

Loading: Methil

Unloading: Methil

Personnel

R J Kynoch (In charge)

N Collie

I Penny

Objective

To carry out fully instrumented single *Nephrops* trawl gear measurement trials at various towing speeds and warp lengths on a vessel in the under 10 m category.

Narrative

The hired mobile laboratory was transported to Methil docks and sited within Methil boat club's compound during the week prior to the start of the trials. Staff and underwater instrumentation travelled to Methil during the evening of 26 January. On the morning of 27 January staff commenced rigging the instrumentation aboard the vessel and setting up a shore station in the mobile laboratory to service the underwater instrumentation. Thereafter, fully instrumented hauls were made on fishing grounds in the Firth of Forth for the remainder of the cruise. The trials ended on the afternoon of 31 January with staff returning to Aberdeen. The underwater instrumentation along with the mobile laboratory remained at Methil boat club for the follow on cruise 0902H.

Results

Five fully instrumented hauls were made with a Stuart *Nephrops* trawl comprising 200 mm hoppers. Four hauls were made with 72 m single sweeps and one with 45 m single sweeps. Warp length for all hauls was 135 m and water depth ranging from 34 m to 45 m. The haul procedure was the same for all six hauls and consisted of blocks (15 minute periods while towing at constant rpm) at systematically varied speeds. The reciprocal tow method as recommended by ICES was used to allow for tidal changes. The engineering data obtained will be analysed in the Laboratory.

R J Kynoch
26 April 2004