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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
FISHERIES LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND

FISH STOCK MANAGEMENT SECTION 3 - SHELLFISH RESEARCH

CHARTER REPORT - *RockHopper*

PROGRAMME: FBA 1/2 SCALLOPS

STAFF: P J Dare
D Key

LOCATION: Veryan Bay & Falmouth Bay, S Cornwall

DATES: 10-15 October 1986

AIMS: To complete the 4 days' work of the May charter which were lost due to bad weather.

1. To survey, by CCTV and 35mm cameras, and by dredges, the Veryan Bay scallop ground previously surveyed by MAFF divers in 1983-85.
2. To test the epibenthic sledge for sampling surface substrates and searching for small scallops (Falmouth Bay and Veryan Bay).
3. To obtain hydroid samples for scallop settlement studies (Falmouth Bay and Veryan Bay).
4. To repeat other selected 1983-85 dredge stations in Veryan Bay, as time permits.

NARRATIVE:

Staff travelled by road to Portscatho on 10 October and rendezvoused with Mr Curtis, skipper-owner of the 32ft scalloper ROCKHOPPER. The next 2 days were devoted to aims 1 & 2; the last 2 days to operating the cameras sledge and a beam trawl (for hydroid sampling) on a scallop ground off Falmouth. Staff returned to Lowestoft on 15 October.

RESULTS:

The cameras sledge was deployed twice in Veryan Bay and twice in Falmouth Bay (3 miles E of Zone Point, 1 mile SE of The Bizzies). The diver ground and other areas in Veryan Bay appeared to be virtually devoid of scallops - none were seen by CCTV and only 4 caught in 2 x 20 min tows with 3 dredges. The epibenthic sledge collected various clam juveniles but no scallops. By contrast, the scalloping ground near The Bizzies was productive - a number of medium-large scallops were observed swimming, as were queenies, and some hydroids were taken in the 2m beam trawl.

A total of 3 video tapes was recorded, and about 700 colour frames exposed using the Olympus head-line trawl camera. The Nikon camera was damaged irretrievably by sea-water when the Ikelite plastic case leaked badly on its first 'dive' of the trip (and after testing in situ).

Acknowledgements: Our thanks to Mr Curtis for his invaluable assistance and enthusiasm.

P J Dare
20 October 1986

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