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FRV "SCOTIA"

13SR87

CRUISE 13/87

Report

29-30 December 1987

Personnel

M R Heath	SSO (in charge)
G Urquhart	PSO
J Main	SSO
R Mitchell	SSO
J Dunn	HSO
G I Sangster	HSO
K A Ballantyne	SO
W R Mojsiewicz	SO
A MacDonald	HPTO
P J Barkel	PTO
F Cruickshank	PTO
W K T Gray	PTO
J T M Hunter	PTO
B J Ritchie	PTO
D W T Stuart	PTO
J Grant	Craftsman

Objective

To test the new multiple-opening and closing Methot-trawl and obtain observations on its performance underwater.

Narrative

"Scotia" sailed from Aberdeen at 1130 on 29 December. A trial deployment and recovery operation was carried out in shallow water close to Aberdeen, and the vessel then proceeded offshore into deeper water. A series of trial tows parallel to the coast between Montrose and Collieston were then carried out overnight and during the day on 30 December. Divers were used on three occasions to observe the gear underwater. The vessel docked in Aberdeen at 1520 on 30 December.

Results

Deployment and recovery of the gear down the ramp stern of the vessel was extremely difficult and some damage to the equipment was sustained in the process. Nevertheless, valuable data and observations were collected. Initially, the vessel was unstable and tended to tow nose down on its side at the highest speeds (4Kn).

This was not affected by changes in the angle of the tail fin. However, removal of the leading edge of the fin cured the problem and the gear then towed at a stable depth with approximately 7° of pitch (nose down) and a slight heel (less than 8°) which could be corrected by adjustment of the tail fin. The drag exerted by the gear at a towing speed of 4 Kn was approximately 4.3 tonnes.

During the trials, the release mechanism for net changing was operated by divers. Once released, the net bars fell smoothly down the guiding rods but some difficulties were experienced with the release mechanism itself. However, the trials demonstrated the source of the problem and this can now be rectified.

M Heath

20 January 1988

Seen in draft: N McIver pp N McInnes