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Not to be cited without prior reference to the FRS Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen

MFV *Genesis* (BF505)

Cruise 0108H

## **REPORT**

15-25 April 2008

### **Ports**

**Loading:** Peterhead, 15 April

**Unloading:** Peterhead, 25 April

**\*In setting the cruise programme and specific objectives, etc the Scientist-in-Charge needs to be aware of the restrictions on working hours and the need to build in adequate rest days and rest breaks as set out in FRS' Working Time Policy (which is published on the Intranet). In addition, the Scientist-in-Charge must formally review the risk assessments for the cruise with staff on-board before work is commenced.**

**In the interest of efficient data management it is now mandatory to return the Cruise Report, to John Morrison and the Cruise Summary Report (old ROSCOP form) to Dougal Lichtman, within four weeks of a cruise ending. In the case of the Cruise Summary Report a nil return is required, if appropriate.**

### **Personnel**

I Penny  
O Goudie  
G Jones

**Fishing Gear:** Anglerfish Trawl BT 195 x 2; vessel's own Net System trawl doors.

### **Objectives**

1. To undertake a nationally co-ordinated demersal trawling survey of anglerfish in the North Sea (Eastern survey area).
2. To obtain temperature at depth profiles at each trawling station.
3. To obtain net parameter and bottom contact data for each trawling station.

### **Procedures**

This is the fourth annual Anglerfish survey which follows a set of protocols drawn up by an industry science survey planning group made up of FRS scientists and fishing representatives. These protocols share much in common with the sampling regimes described in FRS' standing instructions for demersal trawl surveys.

The cruise track and sampling locations will be delivered to the skipper prior to departure. An approximate map of the sampling area giving the locations of all of the co-ordinated surveys is appended as Figure 1.

## Trawling

One haul of 60 minutes duration will be made at each sampling station; trawling operations will occur in waters up to a maximum of 1000 m. Daily start times will be at approximately 0800 and continue until approximately 2000. All trawling should be complete by approximately 2300 each night. The Scanmar system will be used to monitor wing spread, door spread and distance covered during each haul. A bottom contact sensor will be mounted on the footrope. Temperature at depth data will be collected by the use of a DST sensor attached to the trawl.

Catches will be worked up according to the protocols for the FRS anglerfish surveys which are similar in principle to FRS standing instructions.

Normal contacts will be maintained with the Laboratory.

## Report

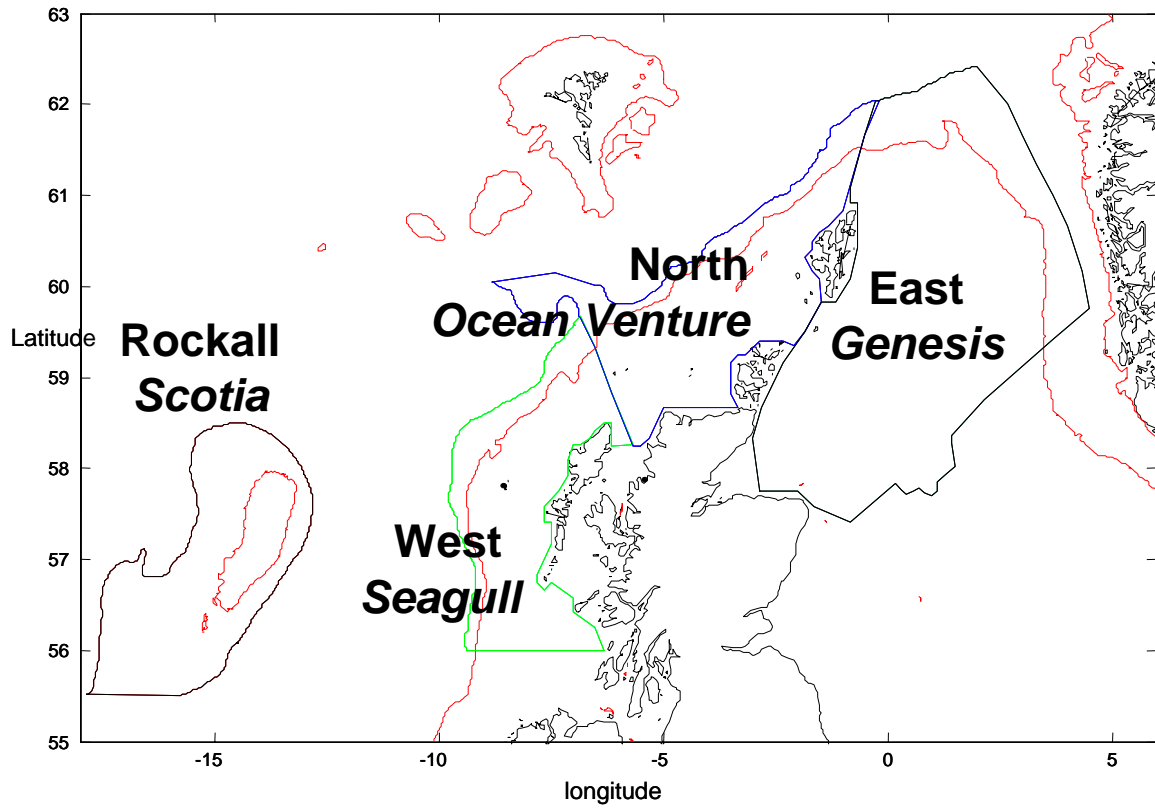
*Genesis* departed from Peterhead at 1530 on Tuesday 25 of April, approximately 3 hours behind schedule due to rigging. *Genesis* commenced fishing that evening at approximately 2200 GMT. The first haul location was sampled twice due to coming fast on the first attempt; both samples were worked up as valid tows, with differing durations. The following morning *Genesis* became fast on a sub-sea structure (wellhead) and spent much of the day recovering and repairing the net, which had been badly damaged. Work proceeded normally until the afternoon of 17 April when the bottom contact unit failed and lacking a replacement no further data was collected. *Genesis* made good progress until the evening of 19 April when sponge picked up in the deep water at the northern extremity of the survey caused damage. This affected the extension and cod-end, the haul being declared invalid. It was decided to attempt an extra station to the west of this position. The gear became fast once again and *Genesis* was forced to haul early. With no damage to the gear the haul was declared valid for a reduced duration.

The weather remained extremely good over the next six days with the original time deficit recovered. Within this period a worn single sweep was the only point of interest, replaced on 21 April. *Genesis* now had enough time in hand to repeat the location at the wellhead come the end of the cruise.

The *Genesis* conducted an extra tow on 23 April and proceeded to replace the Wellhead survey location with an alternative position 10 nm west of the original position on 24 April. A further extra station was also completed before the *Genesis* docked at Peterhead at 1900 on 24 of April, unloading the trawl and landing its catch that evening. Laboratory transport arrived at 0830 on 25 of April and off loaded the equipment and staff. Laboratory staff arrived back at the Marine Laboratory at 1030. The fishing gear was removed from Peterhead harbour on 24 of April by Jackson Trawls.

During the Eastern survey area the *Genesis* completed 35 hauls of which 33 were valid. Sampling some 291 individual Monkfish for a total live weight of 770 kgs and 518 Megrin for a live weight of 213 kgs from within the Eastern survey area.

Iain Penny  
23 June 2008



**Figure 1:** Map of the Northern Shelf of the North East Atlantic with the areas to be surveyed by the four vessels (in italics) in the forthcoming anglerfish survey. (The red lines indicate the approximate position of the 200 m depth contour).