

Quarterly Logbook Report

April - June 2014



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Total of 183 days fishing activity was recorded from one fishing vessel with a total of 17610 creels hauled over the period of 1st of April – 30th June 2014 (Table 1) accounting for 12781 kg of crustacean biomass.

Of this Brown crab *Cancer pagurus* represented 59% of landings, European Lobster *Homarus gammarus* 3% and Velvet Crabs *Necora puber* 38% accordingly (Table 2). Percentage undersize varied between species with *C. Pagurus* ranging from 98 - 6% respectively with an average of 27%, *H. gammarus* 75 – 16% with an average of 12% and *N. Puber* 86 - 24% with an average of 16%.

Soak time did not vary between target species, with overall soak times ranging from 10 – 1 days with an average of 2 days being observed. However variability in soak time would be expected to occur due to individual species bait preference and would be observed with increased logbook sample size (Walker, 2013). Whilst longer set times could be attributed to poor weather conditions restricting creel recovery.

| | Per Week | Per Month |
|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Average Pots Hauled | 1467 | 5870 |

Table 1. Breakdown of the Number of Creels Hauled over 1st April – 30th June 2014

| Species | Total Weight (Kg) | Average Monthly Weight (Kg) | Average Weekly Weight (Kg) |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Brown Crab <i>Caner pagurus</i> | 7585 | 2528.3 | 632 |
| European Lobster <i>Homarus gammarus</i> | 360 | 120 | 30 |
| Velvet Crab <i>Necora puber</i> | 4836 | 1612 | 403 |

Table 2. Landed weight (Kg) of the three target species over 1st April - 30th June 2014

The observed catches per unit effort (CPUE) of *C.pagurus* illustrate one landable crab per creel, based on an average weight of 651g/per crab. Whilst *H.gammarus* CPUE is similar to those observed by fisherman, with 1 lobster for every 24 creels hauled (Personal Communication) within the current select lobster weight bracket of 400g – 1.5kg (Orkney Fisherman Society, August 2014). *N.puber* illustrates a CPUE of 2 landable crabs per creel, based on an average weight of 116g/per crab.

| Species | CPUE (Kg) |
|---|-----------|
| Brown Crab <i>Caner pagurus</i> | 0.430 |
| European Lobster <i>Homarus gammarus</i> | 0.020 |
| Velvet Crab <i>Necora puber</i> | 0.274 |

Table 3. Species Specific Creel Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) in Kg over 1st April – 30th June 2014

The interaction between static gear and the capture of non-target specie is believed to be low impact, this is illustrated here (Table 4). However due to the nature of logbooks, true levels of bycatch should be considered underreported. Therefore to ascertain a better representation of bycatch levels observer trip data should be analysed alongside logbook data.

| Species | CPUE (No.) |
|--|------------|
| Lesser Spotted Dogfish <i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i> | 0.0009 |
| Common Octopus <i>Octopus vulgaris</i> | 0.0005 |

Table 4. Creel Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) of Bycatch Species (No.) between 1st April – 30th June 2014

This report is based on one boat from 1st April – 30th June 2014, therefore is not an accurate representation of fishing effort within Orkneys inshore fleet over the time period and should be interpreted as such.

References:

Walker K., (2013). Orkney Shellfish Research Project: Logbook Report 2013. Orkney Sustainable Fisheries Ltd.