

Demery - file.

Report of Cruise 76-1 - Crab

Date: March 6, 1976

Place: Pacific Ocean, Heceta Light to S. of Siuslaw R. 10-30 fm.

Vessel: Christopher M

Objective: Observe crab fishing technique and strategy. Collect data on catch per trap and CPT per String.

Description: I was invited to go along on a fishing trip by Kenneth Martinson, owner-skipper of the vessel. We departed Newport about midnight of March 5, proceeding to the south end of his traps south of the Siuslaw River mouth. We arrived at the south end of his gear at about daybreak, 0600 on March 6, and proceeded to pull crab pots. The vessel ran north on pot strings all day, against the prevailing current. Pots were set in 5 "strings", from 10 fm. to 29 fm. and from Heceta Light to south of the Siuslaw River. Most were in the 10-14 fm. interval, placed parallel to the beach and about 100 yds apart (pot-pot). Quite a lot of gear was seen in the same area especially in the 10-12 fm. area, other than Mr. Martinson's.

Weather was quite good, sea near calm, with a light northerly breeze most of the day. It was sunny but cold, although a stiff northerly wind prevailed from about 1800 hours on. We finished fishing about 1920 on 3/6, and proceeded into Newport with an estimated catch of 2,000 crabs (4,000 lb) from 500 traps. Mr. Martinson estimated he had that many left of an original 530 placed in the water at the start of the season in December 1975. Crabs averaged about 2-2½ lb each. Data are summarized in Tables 1-3. There was considerable variation among pots within strings and among strings. Strings varied from 40 to 160 pots per string.

Fishing operation was quite efficient. Pot buoys were approached from the south, taken aboard by hook on the starboard side, line placed in the power block, and pulled inboard. The buoy was immediately placed in a solution of water and hexol by one man (to kill algae), and thrown overboard. This man then rebaited with frozen razor clams, and helped sort crab. A second man pulled the buoy line aboard and then sorted crab while the first rebaited, etc. Crab were thrown in the open hold-tank if legal males, discarded overboard if undersized or female, and placed in a box if male but borderline size. These crabs were subsequently measured as time permitted and then kept or discarded as appropriate. Approximately 1-1.8 minutes per pot were necessary to process each trap. The trap was closed and put overboard just before the next buoy line was taken aboard usually.

Personnel

Kenneth Martinson - Skipper
Eddy Long - Crewman
Wade Richardson - Crewman
Christopher Martinson - Crewman
Jack Robinson - Observer

Jack G. Robinson
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