## A REMOVABLE DECK-BLOCK MOUNTING PAD

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Equipping the BCF research vessel 'Delaware II' with a stern fished hydraulic jet dredge for survey work on ocean quahog, Arctica islandica, required that a block be mounted at the stern in the middle of the trawl passage. The purpose of the block is to provide a lead forward to the trawl winch for the quahog dredge haulback wire. On the Delaware II, the hydraulic dredge is hauled up the stern ramp.

It was expected that this block would be required only for the few cruises on which the hydraulic jet dredge was used. On non-clam cruises, the block would be in the way and obstruct trawling operation. Rather than weld a pad to the deck and burn it off each time, it was decided to make a quickly removable block mount and cover the space when the pad was not in use.

Figure 1 shows the block mount assembly. Its removable parts consist of the pad with its attached mounting bolt (part no. 1), gaskets, the bottom retaining washer (part no. 3), a nut,









Fig. 3 - Cover plate assembly.



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and a cotter pin. Permanently welded to the deck plate are a reinforcing plate and a flushmounted length of seamless tubing (part no. 2) with gussets (part no. 4).

Figure 2 is a composite detail drawing of the components, which can be used to duplicate the assembly. Most of the dimensions could be modified to suit any specific situation. Figure 3 shows the cover plate that mounts flush with the deck when the pad is not in use. It has its own washer, nut, and cotter pin.

The removable deck-block mounting pad worked well. The pad could be turned in any direction before tightening to accommodate the required lead for a particular job. If this feature was not needed or desirable, the pad could be keyed to lock it in place.

