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MRV *Alba na Mara*

Survey 0516A

PROGRAMME

28 March – 15 April 2016

Ports

Loading: 26 March 2016, Fraserburgh

Half landing: 06 April 2016, Oban

Unloading: 15 /16 April 2016, Oban

In setting the survey 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 Marine Scotland's Working Time Policy (Lab Notice 34/03). In addition, the Scientist-in-Charge must formally review the risk assessments for the survey with staff on-board before work is commenced. In the interest of efficient data management it is now mandatory to return the survey report, to I Gibb and the survey Summary Report (old ROSCOP form) to M Geldart, within four weeks of a survey ending. In the case of the survey Summary Report a nil return is required, if appropriate.

Personnel

P Gibson SIC

J Turriff

S Kinnear

C Murdoch (Student – 2 days, around half landing)

Fishing Gear: Scallop dredges

Project: 19 days, SU02NS

Objectives

1. To carry out a survey of scallop stocks on the West Coast.
2. To assess shell damage on all scallops caught.
3. To collect information on by-catch of other commercial fish and shellfish species.
4. To identify and quantify numbers of starfish species in all dredge tows.
5. To collect flesh samples for genetic/parasite and toxin analysis back at the laboratory.
6. Arrange collection of live scallops for return to the lab during the survey.
7. Collect clapper shells for master's student (two days during survey).

Procedure

The survey will depart from Fraserburgh on 28 March and after vessel drills will head for the first stations on the West coast.

Scallop dredge hauls will be made at sites used on previous surveys and other known commercial grounds as shown Figure 1. Hauls will be of 30 minutes duration. From each haul all of the scallops will be measured to the half centimeter below and aged. Numbers and size distribution of commercial fish and shellfish species will be recorded along with scallop shell damage and starfish numbers and species. Potential new stations will be looked at depending on time and weather constraints. Tissue samples will also be collected from selected sites and frozen for toxin analysis back at the laboratory. Scallops will be collected for genetic analysis and some will also be returned live back to the lab for parasite analysis and fresh toxin analysis.

The student will be collecting data on the number of “clappers”. These are empty scallop shells with both valves still attached at the hinge. The ratio of “clappers” to live scallops can be used as an estimate of recent mortality.

The survey will end in Oban on 15 April where all equipment and staff will then return to the laboratory.

Normal contacts will be maintained with the laboratory.

Submitted:
P Gibson
10 March 2016

Approved:
I Gibb
26 March 2016

Figure 1

