

Not to be cited without prior reference to Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen

MRV *Alba na Mara*

Survey 1016A

PROGRAMME

11-24 June 2016

Boarding: Fraserburgh, 7 June, 2016

Loading: Fraserburgh, 11 June 2016

Disembarkation: Greenock, 24 June 2016 (No unloading)

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 Boulcott (SIC)

J Mair

Project: 14 days, SP020Q

Sampling Gear and Equipment

15 x Fish Traps

Pyramid frame and calibration mesh

Large pyramid camera drop frame

HD TV system and lights

Armoured cable, spare, axel stands

2 Lasers

Overview

Survey 1016A, in combination with 1116A, serves work carried out by Marine Scotland Science investigating Scotland's MPA network. Data are required to underpin the management of the new suite of marine protected areas and to meet commitments prescribed by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. The 1016A survey aims in particular to establish the current status of demersal fish species within the Small Isles MPA.

Objectives

1. To collect baseline data relating to demersal fish species from within the Small Isles MPA, the Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura MPA and from several outside reference sites.

Embarkation

Scientists will join the vessel on the morning of 11 June. Weather permitting *Alba na Mara* will depart from Fraserburgh the same day.

Fish Trap survey

A fish trap survey at various sites within the Small Isles and the Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura MPA will be carried out during 1016A. The location of potential survey sites are indicated in Figures 1 and 2. Traps will be deployed in the first half of the day and collected in the afternoon. Time will be set aside midday to set traps fitted with monitoring cameras. Species composition and length frequency distributions of fish caught will be determined. All samples will be weighed and, where appropriate (Cod, Whiting, Haddock), their otoliths removed to establish age.

Operations

Daily scientific sampling will occur between 07:00 and 19:00 hours (all times UTC). The fish trap survey will commence on 13 June, weather permitting, in the Small Isles MPA (Figure 1), moving to the Sound of Jura on 20 June (Figure 2). Opportunities for the vessel to top up on freshwater will be taken opportunistically. Scientific operations will cease on the afternoon of 22 June to allow sufficient time for the vessel to travel to Greenock. The 23 June is allocated as a travel day as no unloading will occur in Greenock harbour.

Normal contact will be maintained with the Laboratory.

Submitted:
P Boulcott
27 May 2016

Approved:
I Gibb
03 June 2016

Figure 1: 2016 survey areas: The Small Isles MPA. Targeted sampling boxes are depicted in green.

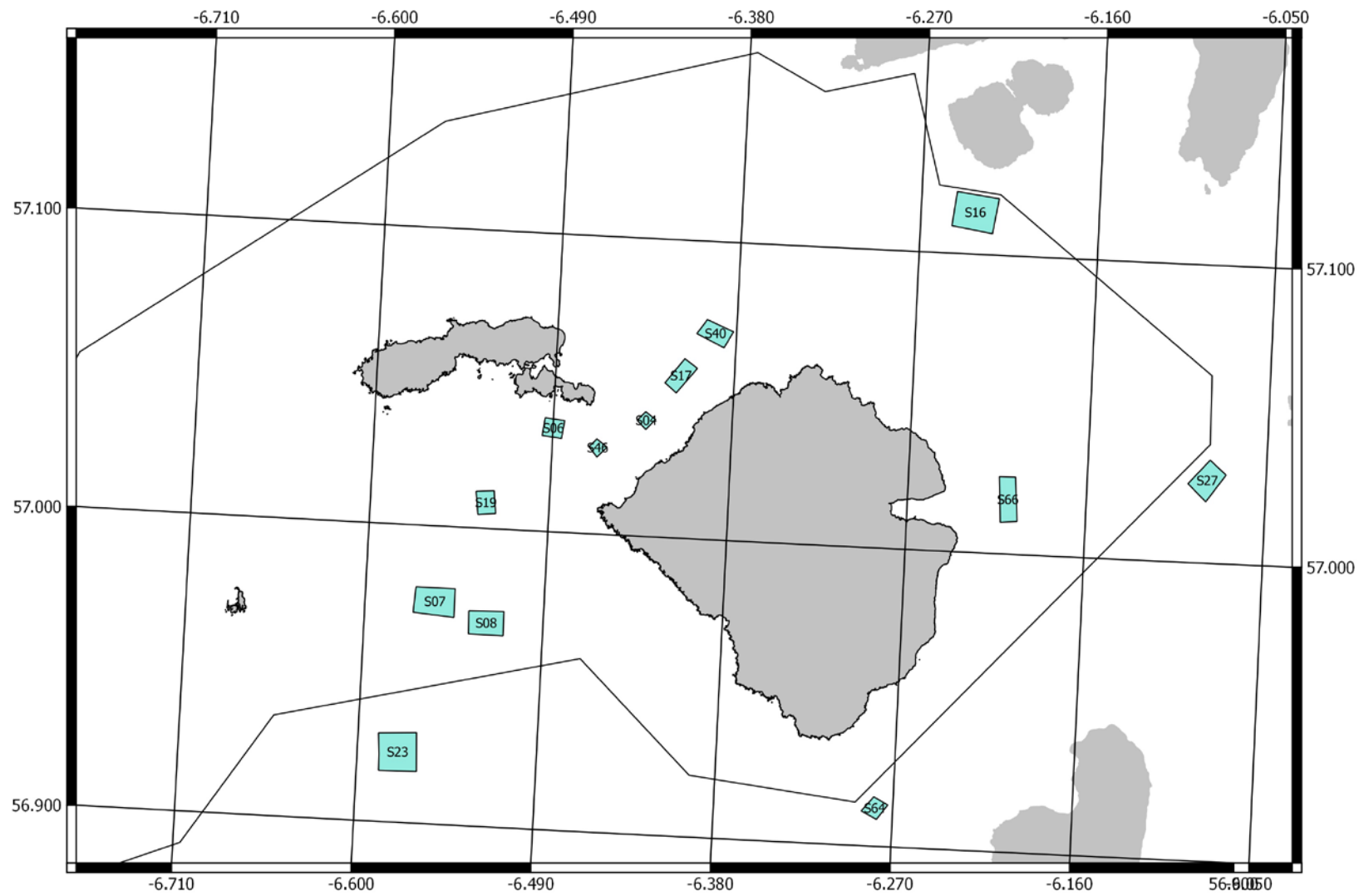


Figure 2: 2016 survey areas: the Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura MPA. Targeted sampling boxes are depicted in red.

