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FRV *Alba na Mara*

Cruise 1111A

PROGRAMME

15 – 29 August 2011

Ports

Loading: Fraserburgh, 10 August 2011

Sailing: Fraserburgh, 15 August 2011

Unloading: Fraserburgh, 29 August 2011

In setting the cruise 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 cruise with staff on-board before work is commenced.

In the interest of efficient data management it is now mandatory to return the Cruise Report, to I Gibb and the Cruise Summary Report (old ROSCOP form) to M Geldart, within four weeks of a cruise ending. In the case of the Cruise Summary Report a nil return is required, if appropriate

Personnel

A Weetman (SIC)

C Shand

C Hepple (15 – 19 August 2011)

H Dobby (19 – 25 August 2011)

Project: RV1111 / 10763

Gear

50 mm prawn trawl BT 201.

Day grab and table

Towed TV sledge, 600m umbilical towing cable and cameras (plus backup)

TV drop frame

Objectives

- To obtain estimates of the distribution and abundance of *Nephrops* burrows in the Firth of Forth, Moray Firth and off Arbroath using underwater cameras.
- To use the TV footage to record the occurrence of other benthic fauna and evidence of commercial trawling activity.
- To collect trawl caught samples of *Nephrops* for comparison of reproductive condition and morphometrics in each of the different survey areas.
- To collect sediment samples at each station.

Procedure

Where possible, a random stratified approach will be adopted to investigate *Nephrops* burrow density in different regions of the study areas.

A list of proposed stations for the survey will be made available to the ship's complement prior to the cruise.

1. TV Observations:

At each station a video camera mounted on a sledge will be towed across the seabed for approximately 10 minutes at approximately 1 knot. *Nephrops* burrows abundance, other benthic fauna and signs of anthropogenic activity will be recorded on to DVD. Distance traveled by the sledge, the depth at which the sledge is at and camera height from the seabed will be monitored and recorded using a range finder mounted on the sledge.

2. Sediment sampling:

Samples of the sediment will be taken at each station using the sledge mounted mini van Veen sediment grab. If this system fails at any time, the traditional winch operated Day Grab will be deployed. All sediment samples will be frozen.

3. Trawling:

Fishing trawls of approximately 30 minutes duration will be made on each sediment type within each survey area. A range of biological data will be collected on *Nephrops* and other shellfish contained in the catch.

4. Drop Frame:

The drop frame will be used where conditions are not suitable for using the TV sledge, recording similar data as to that of the TV sledge.

General

TV work will normally take place during daylight hours. There will be a requirement for some trawling to take place in the evening. On days where trawling will take place, work patterns will be arranged so not to exceed WTD recommendations.

It is proposed that work will commence in the Firth of Forth.

There will be a staff change on 19 August where C Hepple will be replaced by H Dobby. It is expected that this exchange will take place at Rosyth. On 25 August it is intended to make a port call to Invergordon to allow H Dobby to leave the vessel. There will be no replacement for her for the remaining 3 working days of the cruise.

Normal contacts will be maintained with the laboratory.

Submitted
A Weetman
30 June 2011

Approved
I Gibb 29 July 2011