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FRV *Alba na Mara*

Cruise 1209A

## **PROGRAMME**

24 July - 3 August 2009

**Loading:** Fraserburgh, 20 July 2009

**Unloading:** Fraserburgh, 3 August 2009

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 Iain Gibb and the Cruise Summary Report (old ROSCOP form) to Dougal Lichtman, within four weeks of a cruise ending. In the case of the Cruise Summary Report a nil return is required, if appropriate.

## **Personnel:**

P Boulcott

C Hall

## **Gear**

Pyramid frame and underwater video camera kit.

**Costs to Project:** 11 days MF02Q

## **Objectives**

The trip is a return survey to three impact sites examined initially in an impact/BACI study of scallop dredging in the Firth of Lorn (0609A). Each of the three survey sites are split into three sub-sites: an impact sub-site immediately outside the SAC; a control sub-site outside the SAC and adjacent to the impacted site; and a nearby control sub-site within the boundaries of the SAC. All 9 sub-sites will be surveyed by *Alba na Mara* using the UW camera frame developed during 0409A. Data collected from Cruise 0609A will inform the size and number of areas surveyed.

## Summary

To produce reliable estimates of species number and abundance in sites previously surveyed by 0609A.

### General

Weather permitting, *Alba na Mara* will depart during the morning of 24 July from Fraserburgh to arrive in the Firth of Lorn 2 days later. The remainder of the scientific time on this cruise will be spent in and around the boundaries of the Forth of Lorn SAC. *Alba na Mara's* time during this period will be spent surveying the 3 sites, nine sub-sites, which were the subject of the 0609A cruise. It is hoped that 50 randomly allocated survey points, representing some 200 quadrats in a two level design, will be surveyed each day by the *Alba na Mara*. Preliminary trials during 0609A suggest that such a target is possible, but whether this target is reached will depend on very benign weather conditions. Use of the camera drop frame in windy conditions may be impossible. *Alba na Mara* will arrive at Fraserburgh for the morning of 3 August for turnaround and preparation of next cruise.

Normal contact will be maintained with the Laboratory.

Submitted:

P Boulcott

4 June 2009.

Approved:

I Gibb

6 July 2009.