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MRV *Scotia*

Survey 1214S

PROGRAMME

26 August – 6 September 2014

Ports

Loading: Aberdeen, 22 August 2014

Unloading: Scrabster, 6 September 2014

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 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.

Rockall Haddock Survey

Personnel

J Drewery	(SIC)
P Copeland	
M Kinghorn	(Deck)
F Burns	
M Gault	
A Edridge	
R Kilburn	
J Gonzalez-Irusta	
E White	(Visitor)
K Formin	(Visitor)
P Herd	(Visitor)

Estimated Days per Project: 12 days – SU02ND

Fishing Gear

GOV Trawl (BT 137) with ground gear D

Other Equipment

CTD – Seabird 19+

Day and Van Veen grabs

Objectives

- To undertake the bottom trawl survey of haddock on the Rockall Plateau to depths of 350 m.

- To deploy a CTD at selected trawl stations to collect temperature and salinity profiles.
- To collect samples (genetics and otoliths) for key species for population studies, contaminant studies and other requests, e.g. MSFD litter recording.
- To collect sediment samples at selected stations

Procedure

The primary objective of this part of the survey is to assess the state of the haddock stock on the Rockall Plateau. The Rockall haddock surveys employs a semi random stratified survey design comprising four sampling strata separated according to depth. Sampling intensity within each of the four strata reflects the fish density observed in each of the strata using haddock abundance data from previous surveys. Trawling will be carried out during the hours of daylight at randomly selected locations within the 350 metre contour. Forty primary tow positions have been generated and their allocation within each depth stratum is displayed in Figure 1. The number of stations within each depth strata is as follows: four stations at 0-150 m, 20 stations at 150-200 m, 11 stations at 200-250 m and five stations at 250-350 m. Where time allows two additional hauls will be conducted outside our strata (at depth below 350 m). These correspond to the positions used in the 2014 monkfish survey where haddock were found. A further 20 secondary stations have been generated to provide alternatives should any primary station prove unfishable.

One haul of 30 minutes duration will be made at each sampling station. Daily start times for survey stations will be at approximately 0600 h and continue until approximately 2000 h. The Scanmar system will be used to monitor wing spread, door spread and distance covered during each haul. A bottom contact sensor will be mounted on the footrope to record the distance of the trawl off the seabed. Catches will be worked up according to the protocols for International Bottom Trawl Surveys. A CTD will be deployed at selected trawl stations.

At night there will be sediment sampling using Day or Van Veen grabs. The positions of these will be decided on a day to day basis depending on vessel location at the end of each trawling period.

Normal contacts will be maintained with the Laboratory.

Submitted:
J Drewery
07 August 2014.

Approved:
I Gibb
19 August 2014.

Figure 1: Survey map with stations of Rockall bank. Sampled strata are those ranging from 0-350 m depth. Red boxes represent restricted/closed areas. Closed circles = primary haul positions, open circles = secondary haul positions.

