

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

MRV *Alba na Mara*

Survey 1712A

PROGRAMME

6 October - 14 October 2012

Ports

Loading: Greenock, 4 October

Departure: Greenock, 6 October

Unloading: Fraserburgh 14 October

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 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

*E Armstrong (SIC)	6 – 14 Oct.
S Lusseau	6 – 14 Oct.
O Goudie	6 – 14 Oct.
J Holbrook	6 – 8 Oct.
R Anderson	9 – 11 Oct.
L Howarth	6 – 14 Oct. (PhD visitor)

Project: SU02NP – 9 days

Objectives

1. To conduct an acoustic survey designed to survey both the open and enclosed areas of the Clyde to ultimately provide an estimate of the abundance and distribution of herring
2. To obtain samples of herring for biological analysis, including age, length, weight, sex, maturity and ichthyophonus infection.
3. All other species caught will be measured for length and weight to establish a length weight relationship.

Procedure

Fishing gear will be transported to Greenock by lorry on 4 October and loaded onto the vessel. Scientific staff will travel by mini-bus to Greenock to join the vessel on 5 October and the vessel will depart port on Saturday 6 October.

The survey will be carried out within an area bounded by approx. 55°N to 56°N and 04° 40' W to 05° 40' W. Echointegration will be carried out at 38, 120 and 200 kHz. Data gathered in the hours of darkness will not be used for stock assessment. Trawling operations will be carried out as and when marks are identified. Otoliths will be collected from a sub-sample of the herring to determine age. The maturity state and presence of *Ichthyophonus* infection will also be recorded.

The track will be similar to that carried out by FRV Clupea in 1991 given below (Figure 1). The survey will involve following a pre-set survey pattern, at a steaming speed of 8 knots. The intention is to spend the first three days surveying the southern part of the area, weather permitting, finishing in Campbeltown to change Fishery Officers. The rest of the time left will be spent covering the northern part of the survey, finishing in Campbeltown to allow the Fishery Officer to disembark, before setting sail to be in Fraserburgh for the morning of the 14 October

Staff will return to the laboratory on 14 October by minibus.

Normal contact will be maintained with the Marine Laboratory.

Submitted:
E Armstrong
2 October 2012

Approved:
I Gibb
3 October 2012



Figure 1. Track executed by FRV Clupea on the Clyde Herring Acoustic Survey July 1991.