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Survey 1814A

MRV *Alba na Mara*

PROGRAMME

16-24 October 2014

Ports

Loading: Greenock, 14 October 2014

Unloading: Greenock, 24 October 2014

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 Hunter

J Clarke

Gear

Pyramid frame

2 x UW TV cables (one armoured)

Digital stills camera

AV support equipment

(All gear loaded on from 1714A)

Cost to Project: 9 days, SP0040

Objectives

- Collect time series data on scallop abundance in the Lamlash Bay area

In September 2008 part of Lamlash Bay, Arran, became a community marine reserve and is now a No Take Zone (NTZ), the purpose of which is to help protect and enhance biodiversity. In addition to the enhanced biodiversity there is also an expectation that the No Take Zone will result in the scallop stocks being enhanced. Two baseline surveys, conducted by Marine Scotland Science in June 2009 and November 2010, collected data on scallop abundance in and around the waters of the NTZ. This survey will repeat the survey of the NTZ and two control areas (Figure 1) in order to assess whether changes have taken place in the structure of the benthic community in the intervening four years.

- Conduct a bathymetric study of the area to the south of Arran MPA

The area to the south of Arran will be surveyed using multi-beam, bathymetric techniques. Data from this survey will be processed at a later date and will be used to derive sediment maps.

General

Weather permitting; *Alba na Mara* will make passage from Greenock to Lamlash Bay on the afternoon of 16 October. The camera drop frame, TV winch cables and video equipment will have been loaded on from the previous survey, 1714A. In total, 300 stations are to be surveyed using the drop-camera frame, with four quadrat images taken at each station (Figure 1). Once the TV survey of the NTZ and the two control areas has been completed, the remainder of the survey time will be spent conducting a bathymetric survey to the south of Arran. The vessel will dock in Greenock at the end of the survey for unloading on 24 October.

Normal contact will be maintained with the Laboratory.

Submitted
P Boulcott
15 September 2014.

Approved:
I Gibb
17 September 2014

Figure 1. A map of the three survey areas in and around Lamlash Bay: 1) western area of Lamlash Bay 2) no take zone 3) outside reference area. Four quadrat images are to be taken at each station (n=30).

