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

Charter Fishing Vessel: *Samantha Jane (K94)*  
*Merlin II (K69)*

Cruise: 2209H

SISP Crab tagging (Inshore)

## **PROGRAMME**

13-15 October 2009 (Flexible for weather)

## **Ports**

### **Samantha Jane (K94)**

**Loading:** Stromness, 13 October

**Unloading:** Stromness, 14 October

### **Merlin II (K69)**

**Loading:** Stromness, 15 October

**Unloading:** Stromness, 15 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 Cruise Report, to I Gibb and the Cruise Summary Report (old ROSCOP form) to D Lichtman, within four weeks of a cruise ending. In the case of the Cruise Summary Report a nil return is required, if appropriate.

## **Personnel**

Gareth Jones (SIC)

Peter Gibson

**Project:** – MF06R06 10632 - 3 days

## **Fishing Gear**

Vessel's own crab pots and bait

## **Other Equipment**

GPS units

Tagging equipment

Table

## Objectives

1. To increase the knowledge of the offshore and inshore crab stocks to the North of Scotland.
2. To tag Brown Crab, of a range of sizes, from inshore waters to the north of Scotland for investigations of their movements. Tagging will involve using both high visibility double t-bar tags that are retained on moulting and 'cable-tie' type tags which will be attached to the claws of some of the animals.
3. To biologically sample all tagged crabs for carapace width, shell condition, sex and reproductive state (of females) and record date, time and latitude, longitude, and depth of the return location.

## Procedure

The 3 day charter will be split between 2 vessels to maximise the spread of tagged crabs on the target fishing grounds.

### **Samantha Jane (K94)**

All gear and scientific equipment will be loaded onto the vessel in Stromness on the morning of Tuesday 13 October. Weather permitting, the vessel will then depart and make passage to inshore fishing grounds to the west of Orkney, where it already has gear deployed. The vessels crew will be responsible for hauling and removing crabs from pots. Marine Scotland scientific staff will deal with the catch, selecting crabs for tagging, conducting the tagging and recording time, date, biological and positional information before release. All gear and scientific equipment will be unloaded in Stromness on the evening of Wednesday 14 October.

### **Merlin II (K69)**

All gear and scientific equipment will be loaded onto the vessel in Stromness on the morning of Thursday 15 October. Weather permitting, the vessel will then depart and make passage to inshore fishing grounds to the north/west of Hoy, where it already has gear deployed. The vessels crew will be responsible for hauling and removing crabs from pots. Marine Scotland scientific staff will deal with the catch, selecting crabs for tagging, conducting the tagging and recording time, date, biological and positional information before release. All gear and scientific equipment will be unloaded in Stromness on the evening of Thursday 14 October.

The daily work plan for the vessel will be to haul as many creels as possible. It is estimated 50-60 can be tagged per hour; total numbers tagged will depend on numbers of crabs caught on grounds. The vessel shall return each night to port. Marine Scotland staff working hours will not exceed 13 hours in a 24 hour period and appropriate rest breaks will be scheduled.

Normal contact will be maintained with the Marine Laboratory.

Contact number for the *Samantha Jane* is 07736872626.

Contact number for the *Merlin II* is 01856850364.

Submitted:  
Gareth Jones  
14 September 2009.

Approved:  
I Gibb  
14 September 2009