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FRV *Alba Na Mara*

Cruise 0208A

Report

24 April – 15 May 2008

Ports

Loading: 23 April, Fraserburgh
Half Landing: 3 May, Mallaig
Unloading: 15 May, Fraserburgh

Personnel

T Howell (In charge 24 April 3 May)
S Davis (In charge 3 - 15 May)
John Turriff

Fishing Gear Scallop Dredges

Cost to project: 23 days, M01Ta

Objectives

- To carry out a survey of scallop stocks on the West of Scotland.
- To collect information on by catches of commercial fish and shellfish species.
- To collect biological data on scallop growth rates.

Narrative

The scientific staff joined FRV *Alba Na Mara* at 0945 hours on 24 April and set sail soon afterwards for Loch Eribol, arriving at 0030 next morning. At 0700 the vessel made for Loch Ewe where sampling began. No fishing took place on 26 April due to SW gales but the time was used to try new methods for safely adjusting the gear. The survey resumed next morning at Longa and continued until the vessel entered Mallaig harbour on the evening of 2 May for half landing. Staff changes took place in Mallaig on evening of 3 May. *Alba na Mara* sailed from Mallaig next morning and proceeded with the survey until the afternoon of 13 May, when the vessel made for Fraserburgh. Three tows to the south of Mull were not completed due to time constraints. The vessel arrived in Fraserburgh at 1330 on 15 May when scientific staff returned to the laboratory with all equipment and samples.

Results

During the trip 92 dredge hauls were made and a total of 12,608 scallops were caught. The position of each haul is shown on the map in Figure 1. Catch rates varied from a minimum of 2/hr to a maximum of 107/hr. The aggregate catch rates for each area, expressed in numbers per hour per metre width age, are shown in Figure 2. The individual graph

headings in Figure 2 show the overall catch rate for each area. The length frequencies in numbers caught per half centimetre length category are shown in Figure 3. The numbers of each by-catch species caught is given in Table 1. A total of 15 hauls were examined for growth rates.

S Davis
26 May 2008

Figure 1. West Coast Scallop Survey 2008

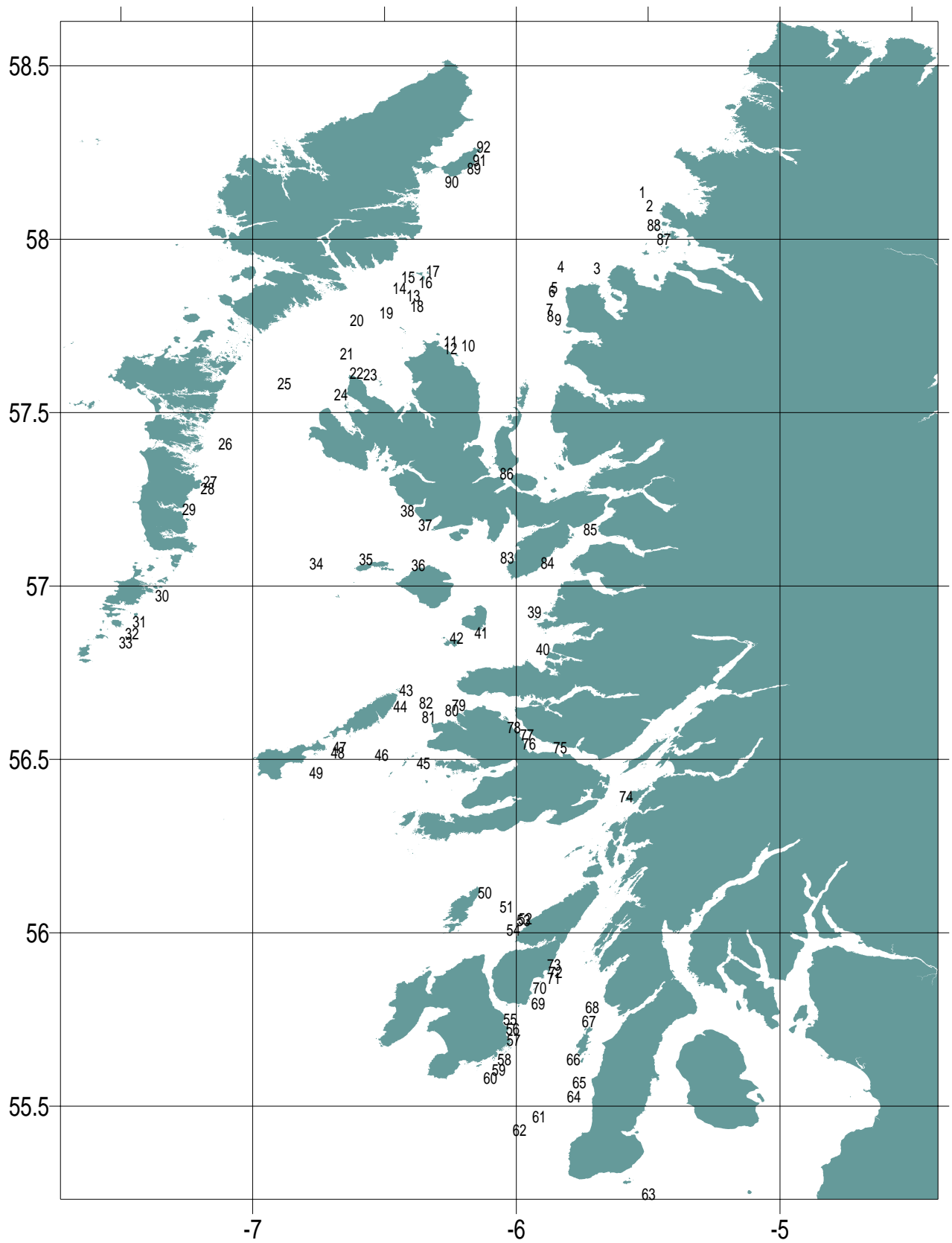


Table 1. By-Catch (numbers by species)

Aequipecten opercularis	141
Artica islandica	51
Aspitrigla cuculus	5
Buccinum undatum	63
Callionymus lyra	1
Cancer pagurus M	286
Cancer pagurus F	
Gadus mohua	1
Limanda limanda	4
Scyliorhinus canicula M	1
Lophius piscatorius	2
Microstomus kitt	4
Necora puber	17
Neptunea antiqua	70
Pleuronectes platessa	1
Psetta maxima	1
Raja batis F	1
Raja brachyura M	2
Raja brachyura F	1
Raja clavata M	4
Raja clavata F	4
Raja montagui M	3
Raja montagui F	3
Raja naevus M	11
Raja naevus F	21
Mya arenaria	1
scophthalmus rhombus	1
Myoxocephalus scorpius	1
Lithodes maja M	1
Zeugopterus punctatus	1

Figure 2

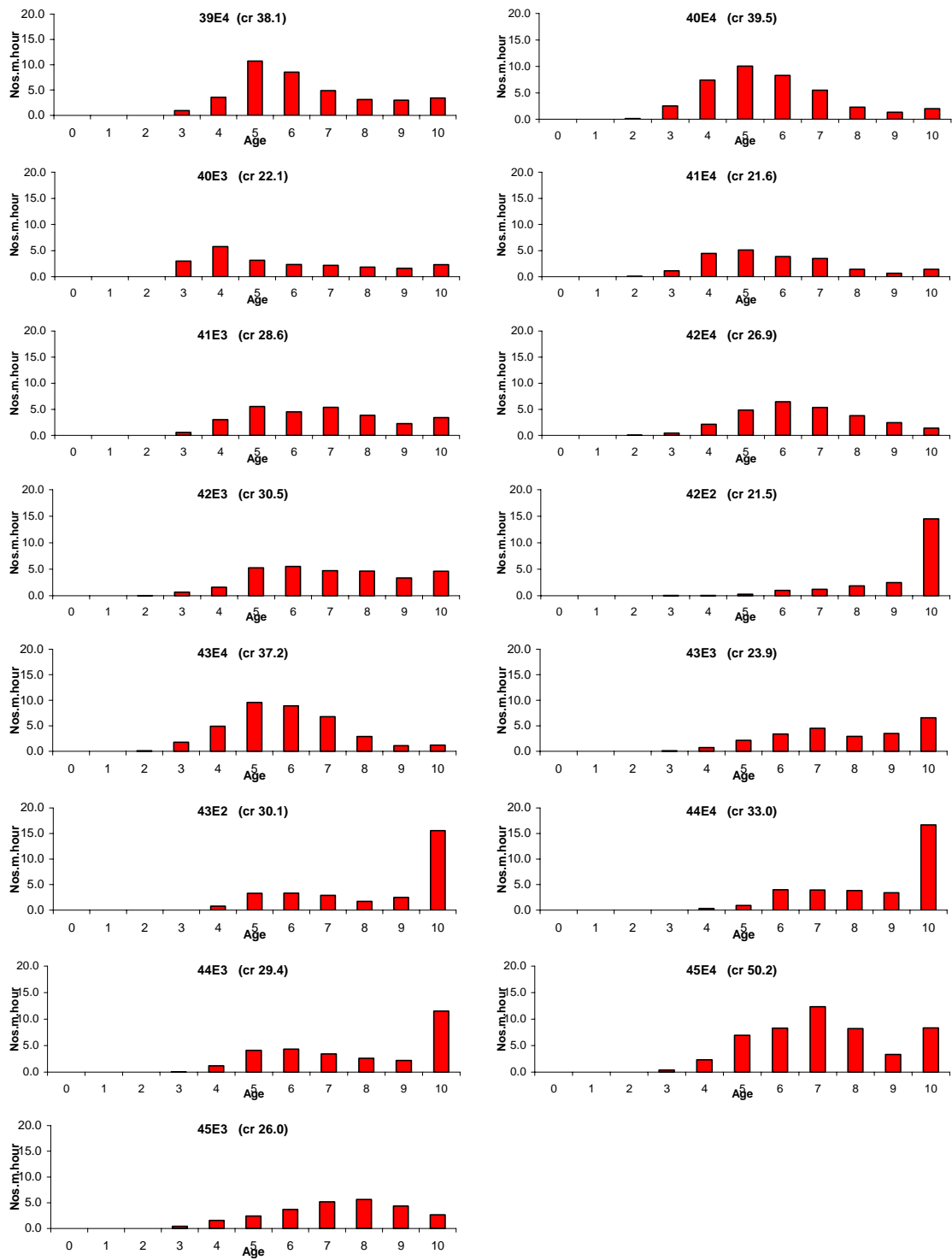


Figure 3

