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FRV *Alba na Mara*

Cruise 0309A

## **REPORT**

17 February – 3 March 2009

## **PORTS**

**Loading :** 10 February, Fraserburgh

**Unloading :** 3 March, Fraserburgh

## **Personnel**

S Davis 22 Feb – 3 Mar SIC

J Turriff 17 Feb – 3 Mar (SIC 17 -22 Feb)

L Allan 17 -22 Feb

**Fishing Gear:** Scallop Dredges

**Cost to project:** 15 days – MF01ta

## **Objectives**

1. To carry out a survey of scallop stocks around Shetland.
2. To collect information on by-catches of other commercial fish and shellfish species.
3. To collect biological data on scallop growth rates.

## **Narrative**

The scientific staff joined FRV *Alba na Mara* at 1000 hours on 17 February and the vessel left Fraserburgh at 1030, arriving at Levenwick Bay at 0400 next day. Sampling began NE of Sumburgh at 0800 on 18 February and three hauls were undertaken then as the weather was favourable the decision was taken to head to the stations W of Scalloway and two hauls were completed before the vessel made for Scalloway. On 19 February a further six stations were completed and the vessel made passage for Levenwick Bay. On 20 February a further six hauls were completed however, on the seventh haul the port side of the gear came fast and the warp snapped with little warning. The decision was taken to steam to Lerwick and rig up a replacement side of gear and provision was made to repair the snapped warp. On 22 February the vessel remained in Lerwick due to bad weather again. Sampling resumed on 23 February and continued on the east side of Shetland until the vessel made for Fraserburgh on 5 February. Limited stations were completed in all areas except St Magnus Bay which was not sampled due to adverse weather conditions. The vessel arrived in Fraserburgh at 1500 on 2 March. Scientific staff returned to the laboratory with all equipment and samples on the morning of 3 March.

## Results

During the trip 53 dredge hauls were made and a total of 6432 scallops were caught. The position of each haul is shown on the map in Figure 1. Catch rates varied from a minimum of 1/hr to a maximum of 247/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.

S Davis  
17 April 2009.

**Table 1**

SPECIES	Numbers Caught
<i>Aequipecten opercularis</i>	429
<i>Aritica Islandica</i>	16
<i>Buccinum undatum</i>	86
<i>Callionymus lyra</i>	1
<i>Cancer pagurus</i> B	0
<i>Cancer pagurus</i> F	90
<i>Cancer pagurus</i> M	100
<i>Lithodes maja</i> F	1
<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>	27
<i>Microstomus kitt</i>	2
<i>Myoxocephalus scorpius</i>	
<i>Neptunea antiqua</i>	270
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	9
<i>Raja clavata</i> F	1
<i>Raja clavata</i> M	2
<i>Raja montaquii</i> F	1
<i>Raja montaquii</i> M	1
<i>Phrynorhombus norvegicus</i>	1
<i>Raja naevus</i> F	25
<i>Raja naevus</i> M	15
<i>Hippoglossoides platessoides</i>	2
<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i> F	1
<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i> M	1
<i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>	1
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	1
<i>Microchirus variegatus</i>	1
<i>Raja radiata</i> F	1

Figure 1

Shetland Scallop Survey 2009

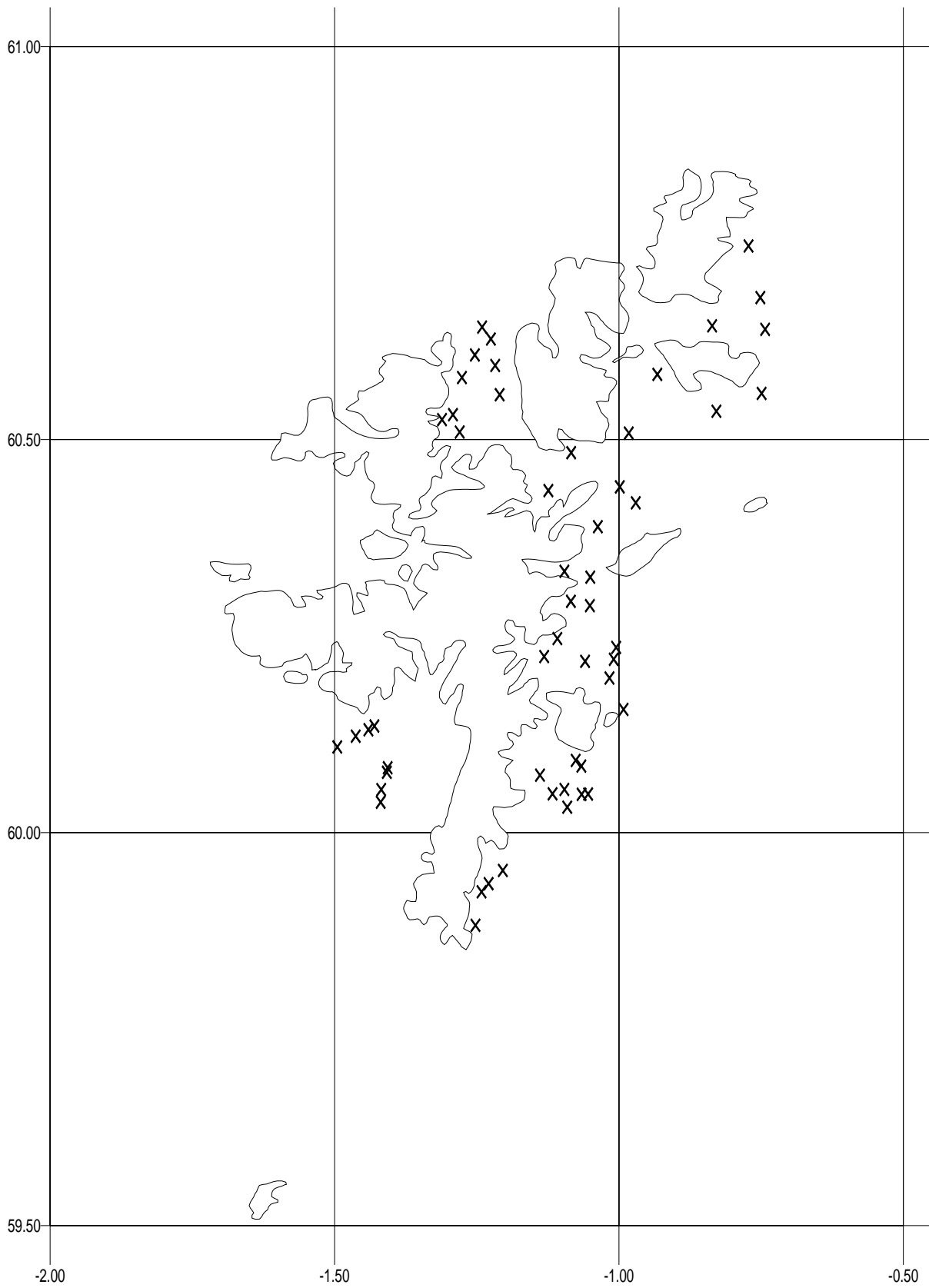


Figure 2.

## Shetland Scallop Survey 2009

### Catch Rate by Age in Area

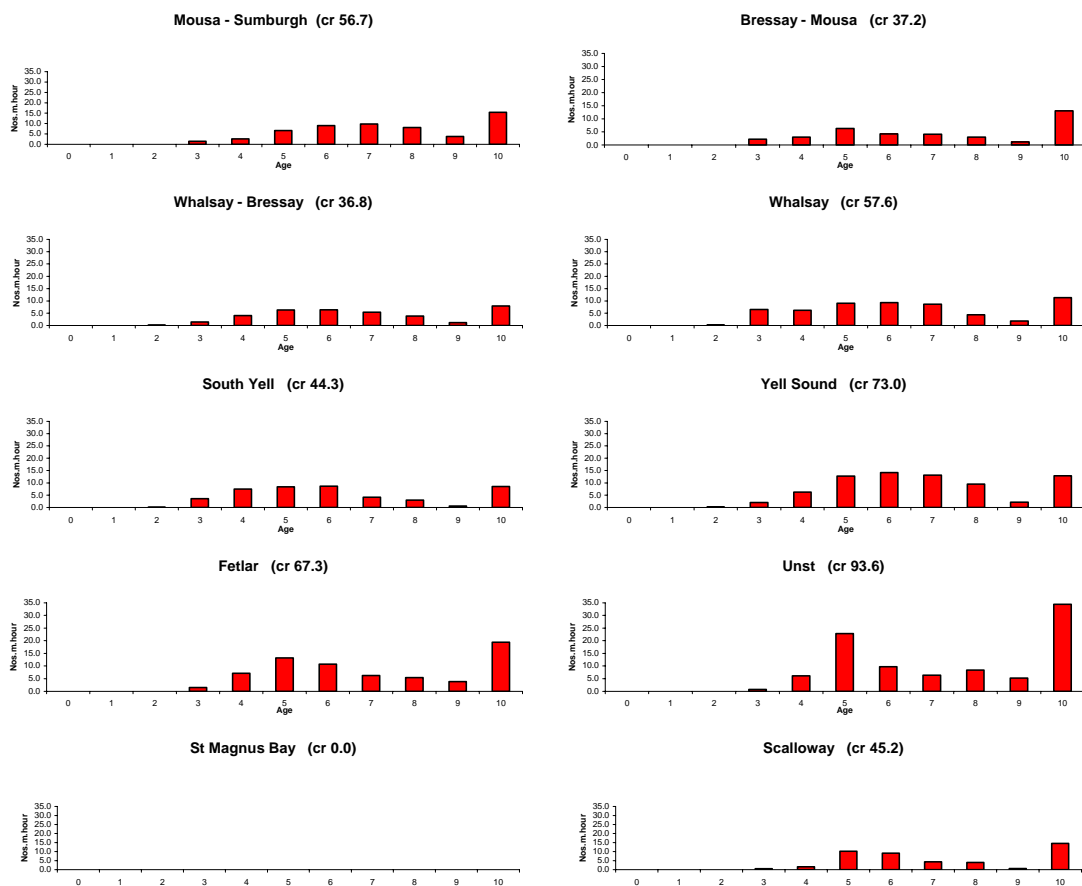


Figure 3.

### Shetland Scallop Survey 2009 Numbers at Size in Area

