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FRV *Alba na Mara*

Cruise 0608A

REPORT

27 June – 16 July 2008

Ports

Loading: 26 June, Fraserburgh

Half Landing: 6 July Fraserburgh

Unloading: 16 July, Fraserburgh

Personnel

T Howell SIC (6-16 July)

S Davis SIC (27 June-5 July)

J Turriff

Fishing Gear: Scallop dredges

Costs to Project: 20 days M01TA

Objectives

1. To carry out a survey of scallop stocks in the North Sea.
2. To collect information on by-catches of other commercial fish and shellfish species.
3. To collect biological data on scallop ring measurements.

Narrative

The scientific staff joined FRV *Alba na Mara* at 1000 hours on 27 June and sailed from Fraserburgh shortly afterwards. Sampling began to the north east of Fraserburgh in statistical rectangle 45E8 and continued covering the North East coast management area grounds until bad weather forced *Alba na Mara* to seek shelter in Kirkwall on 1 July. Sampling recommenced 3 July and continued uninterrupted until the half landing on 6 July. After the half landing *Alba na Mara* then went on to cover the East coast management area which was completed on 12 July. *Alba na Mara* then returned to the North East management area grounds to complete stations missed on the first part of the cruise. On 15 July *Alba na Mara* returned to Fraserburgh completing the cruise.

Results

During the trip 94 dredge hauls were made and a total of 13110 scallops were caught. The sequence and position of each haul is shown in Figure 1. Catch rates varied from a minimum of 0.hr.m to a maximum of 107.hr.m. The aggregate catch rates for each statistical rectangle, expressed in numbers per hour per metre width, by age, are shown

in Figure 2. The individual graph headings in Figure 2 show the overall catch rate for each statistical rectangle. The length frequencies in numbers caught per half centimetre length category are shown in Figure 3. The individual graph headings in Figure 3 show the percentage of scallops less than 100 mm for each statistical rectangle. The numbers of each by-catch species caught is given in Table 1.

T Howell
24 November 2008

Table 1

<i>Aequipecten opercularis</i>	696
<i>Arctica islandica</i>	25
<i>Aspitrigla cuculus</i>	1
<i>Buccinum undatum</i>	130
<i>Callionymus lyra</i>	1
<i>Cancer pagurus M</i>	101
<i>Cancer pagurus F</i>	131
<i>Cancer pagurus B</i>	9
<i>Hippoglossoides paeltssoides</i>	20
<i>Homarus gammarus M</i>	2
<i>Homarus gammarus F</i>	1
<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>	5
<i>Limanda limanda</i>	8
<i>Lithodes maja M</i>	3
<i>Lithodes maja F</i>	10
<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>	39
<i>Microstomus kitt</i>	12
<i>Modiolus modiolus</i>	40
<i>Necora puber M</i>	25
<i>Necora puber F</i>	39
<i>Necora puber B</i>	5
<i>Neptunea antiqua</i>	431
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	71
<i>Raja naevus M</i>	33
<i>Raja naevus F</i>	30
<i>Scorpaena porcus</i>	10
<i>Scorpaena porcus</i>	1
<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i>	1

Figure 1 East Coast Scallop Survey 2008

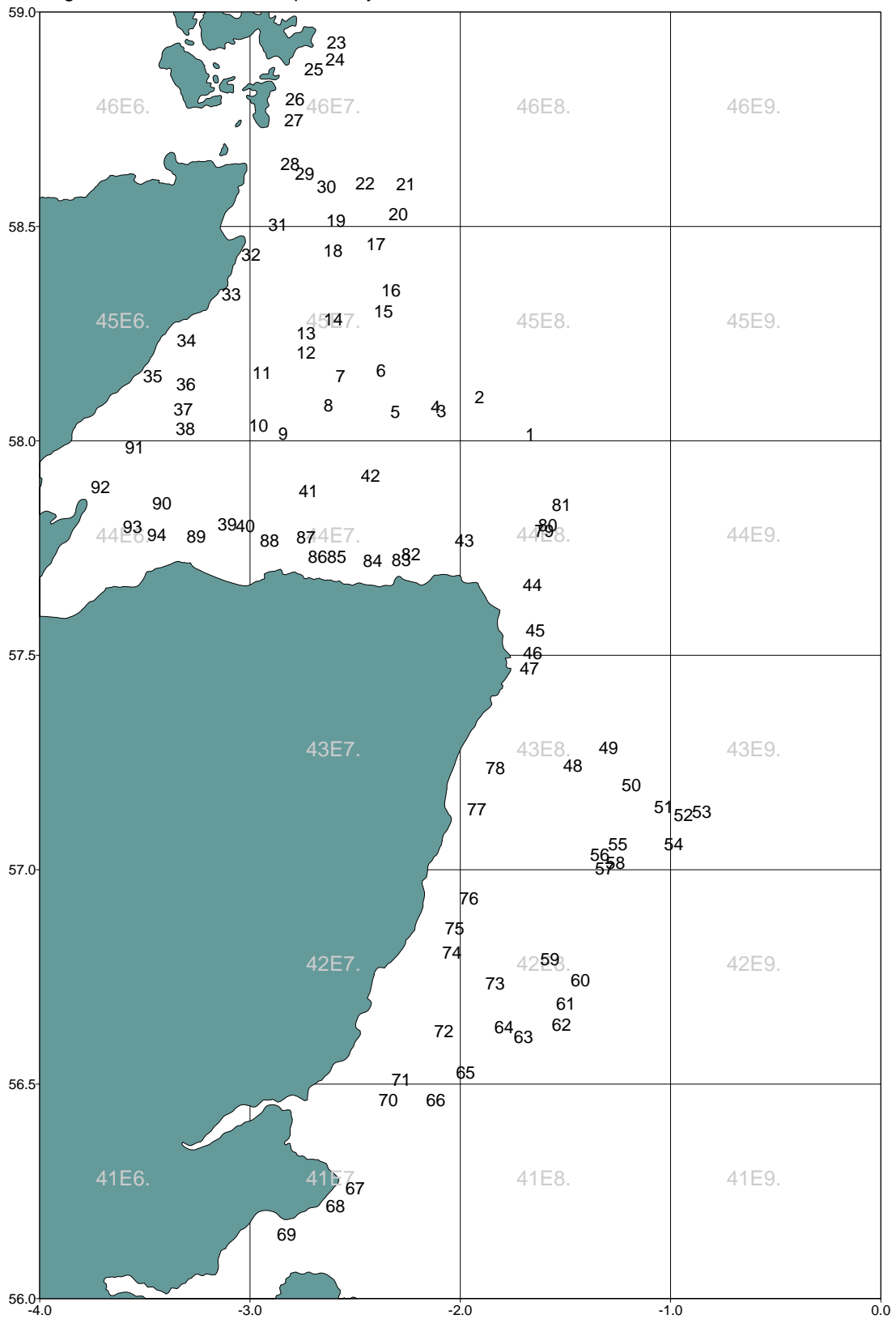


Figure 2

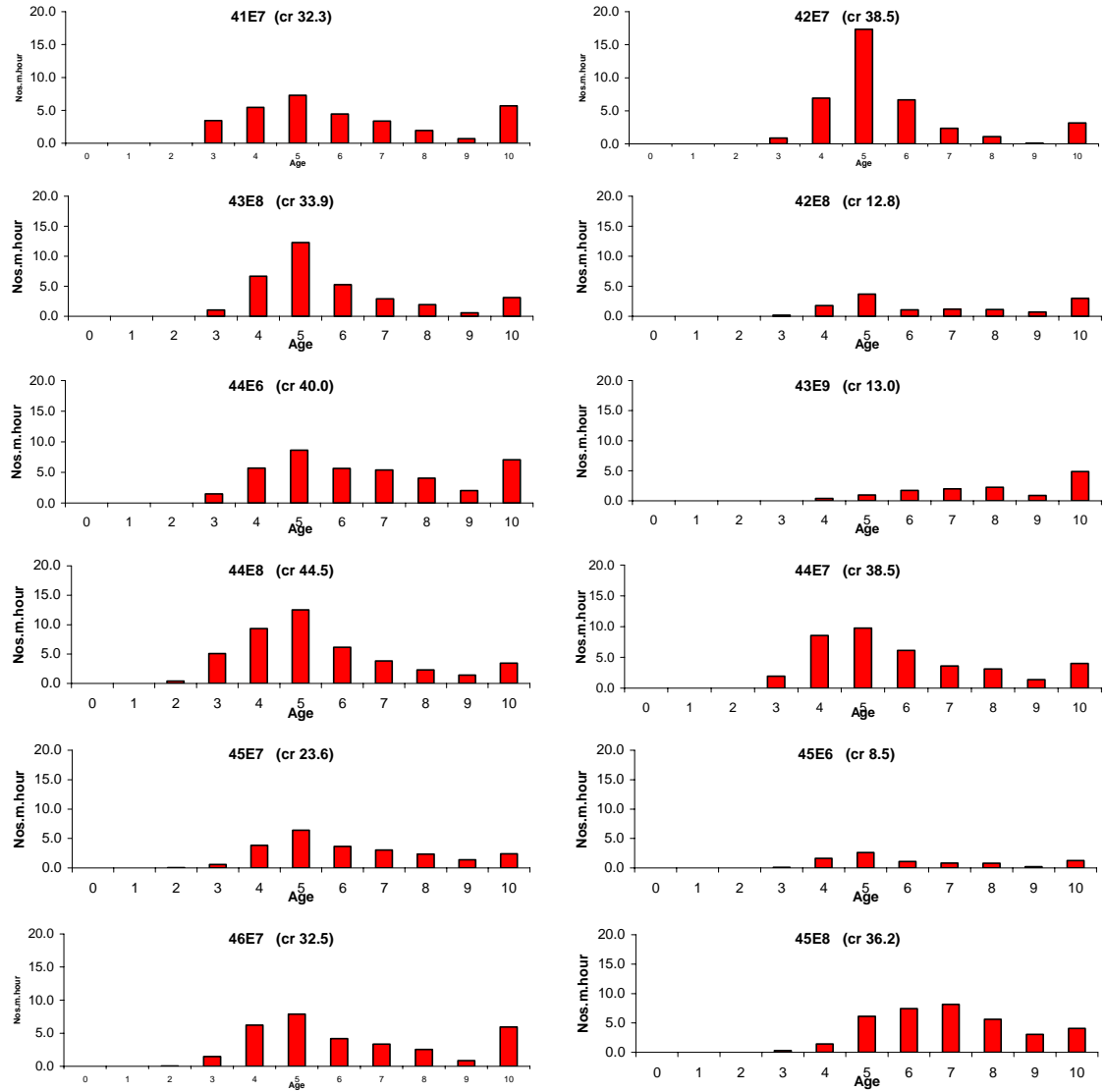


Figure 3

