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

FRV Alba na Mara

Cruise 0110A

## **PROGRAMME**

12-25 February 2010

### **Ports**

**Loading:** Fraserburgh: 8 February 2010

**Sailing:** Fraserburgh: 12 February 2010

**Unloading:** Ullapool: 25 February 2010

**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**

A Weetman SIC

C Shand

A Tait

### **Estimated Project Time:**

14 Days MF01TA/10066

### **Gear**

50 mm prawn trawl BT 149B.

Day grab and table

Towed TV sledge, 600m umbilical towing cable and cameras (plus backup)

TV drop frame

Konesberg Digital Stills camera

### **Objectives**

- To obtain estimates of the *Nephrops* habitat distribution in West Coast Sea Lochs, using sediment grabs and underwater cameras.

- To obtain estimates of the distribution and abundance of *Nephrops* within these lochs using underwater video cameras.
- To use the video footage to record occurrence of other benthic fauna and evidence of commercial trawling activity.
- To collect trawl caught samples of *Nephrops* for comparison of reproductive condition and morphometrics.

## Procedure

For each area in the survey, a position outwith suspected *Nephrops* habitat boundaries will be nominated as the start point for a search path across the length or breadth of the area, which will typically be a loch or bay. Along this search path the drop frame will be deployed to provide a visual record of the seabed type, followed by a Day grab (if appropriate). Sediment samples will be frozen. The distance between these deployments will depend upon each specific area surveyed.

The search path will continue in a particular direction until it appears that muddy sediment is no longer present. The vessel will then complete a return track adjacent to the previous track at a suitable distance apart.

Once an area has been surveyed to establish the extent of the muddy habitat, a series of 10 minute video recordings will be taken. The number of TV stations to be completed will be determined by the extent of the muddy grounds and available time. Although using the TV sledge is the preferred method of video capture, due to the high probability of creels present in the proposed survey areas the drop frame is likely to be more appropriate. However, there may be a requirement to transfer electrical equipment between the two frames.

The latitude and longitude of the proposed start points for each survey area will be made available to the ship's complement prior to the cruise.

Weather permitting, the highest priority areas to be covered in this survey are:

Loch Inchard  
 Eddrachillis Bay  
 Enard Bay  
 Loch Broom  
 Little Loch Broom  
 Loch Gairloch  
 North of Rona (Creel only zone)  
 Inner Sound (Mixed gear area)  
 Loch Torridon

If it is not possible to survey these areas, for whatever reason, work will be carried out in lochs further south.

It is hoped that at least two trawls can be carried out to the North of Rona, each one hour long; one within the Trawl Only area and one outwith this area. A range of biological data will be collected on *Nephrops* and other shellfish.

## **General**

TV work will normally take place during daylight hours. There will be a requirement for some trawling to take place in the evening. On days where trawling will take place, work patterns will be arranged so as not to exceed WTD recommendations.

Normal contacts will be maintained with the laboratory.

Submitted:

*A Weetman*

13 January 2010

Approved:

*I Gibb*

15 January 2010.

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**PROGRAMME AMENDMENT**

The cruise dates have been altered and are now 11-24 February 2010.

Unloading in Ullapool will now be conducted on 28 February 2010.

*I Gibb*

03 February 2010.