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## **MFV Altaire**

Survey 0115H

## **PROGRAMME**

27 February – 12 March 2015

## **Ports**

**Loading:** Ullapool, 26 February 2015

**Unloading:** Ullapool, 12 March 2015

\*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 (which is published on the Intranet). 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 M Geldart, within four weeks of a cruise ending. In the case of the Cruise Summary Report a nil return is required, if appropriate.

## **Personnel**

F Burns        SIC  
L Ritchie  
N Ensor

**Out-turn days:** 14

## **Fishing/Sampling Gear**

Gulf VII plankton sampler

## **Objectives**

1. To carry out a mackerel egg survey within a predefined survey area in the Celtic Sea and Biscay region from 43°N to 52° N (see Figure 1).
2. To collect fish samples, by trawling, for atresia and fecundity analysis back at the laboratory.

## **Procedures**

The vessel will be loaded on the morning of 26 March in Ullapool to be ready for sailing first thing on 27 February. MFV *Altaire* will proceed south, first through the Minch and then to the west of Ireland to the first plankton station southwest of the Fastnet Rock at 51°15N 10°45W. Surveying will then proceed in a south easterly direction down through the Celtic Sea and down to Biscay with the sampling locations tracking on and around the 200 m isobath. The most southerly station on the outbound leg is located at 43°30N 2°15W. Sampling on the inbound leg will then proceed back in a north-westerly direction covering the remaining stations within the survey area left over from the outbound leg. In total there are

approximately 50 plankton stations within the survey area covering both outbound and inbound legs. Plankton stations will be sampled using the Gulf VII sampler with mounted CTD, which will record salinity and temperature during the tow. The plankton tows will require the vessel to deploy the sampler at 1-2 knots, and then steam at 5 knots. The sampler will then be lowered at a steady rate (10m/min) from the plankton crane to within 5 m of the seabed or 200 m – whichever is shallower. The sampler will then be recovered at the same speed. Once aboard, plankton samples will be washed from the sampler net, fixed in formalin and scored for egg abundance. Trawl samples will be taken at the discretion of the scientist in charge. There should be a maximum of 8 trawls for the whole survey, with the trawl being deployed at suitable locations within the survey area (see Figure1).

Once the transect at 52° 45'N has been completed, and depending on the time available, the survey will proceed back north surveying the transects missed out during the first half. The vessel will return to Ullapool for unloading on 12 March 2015.

Normal contact will be retained with the laboratory throughout.

Submitted:  
F Burns  
17 February 2015

Approved:  
I Gibb  
19 February 2015.

Figure 1: Map showing survey area and stations for 0115H.

