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## **MFV Altaire**

Survey 0118H

## **PROGRAMME**

22 May – 6 June 2018

## **Ports**

**Loading:** Ullapool, 21 May 2018

**Unloading:** Ullapool, 6 June 2018

In setting the survey 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 survey with staff on-board before work is commenced.

In the interest of efficient data management it is now mandatory to return the Survey Report, to I Gibb and the Survey Summary Report (old ROSCOP form) to M Geldart, within four weeks of a survey ending. In the case of the Survey Summary Report a nil return is required, if appropriate.

## **Personnel**

F Burns	SIC
B O'hea	(Visitor – MI, Galway)
C Van Damme(	Visitor – WMR, Netherlands)
J Ulleweit	(Visitor – TI, Hamburg)

**Out-turn days per project:** 16, SU02NP

**Fishing/Sampling Gear:** Gulf VII plankton sampler

## **Objectives**

1. To carry out standalone mackerel egg survey, on the western shelf and slope in the area from 52° N to 59° N (see Figure 1).
2. Opportunistic trawling for adult mackerel samples, for exploratory ovary analysis.

## **Procedures**

Loading of the vessel will take place on the afternoon of 21 May in Ullapool and *Altaire* will depart on the following morning. After completing flow-meter calibrations the vessel will proceed through the Minch then west towards the southern end of Rockall Bank (see Figure 1). The first plankton station is at 55° 45N 15°45W and thereafter sampling will continue on a westerly heading on the same latitude and with a station spacing of one degree longitude until at least 24°45W. Similar transects will be undertaken northwards and with a spacing of one degree latitude up to and including 62°45N which will be the final transect. Depending on the progress made during the survey, additional stations located west of Iceland will also be completed. This decision will be taken in conjunction with the master of the vessel during the survey. 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 a speed of four knots. The sampler will then be lowered at a steady rate (ten seconds/metre) from the plankton crane to a maximum depth of 100 m. The sampler will then be recovered at the same speed and rate. Once aboard, plankton samples will be washed from the sampler net, fixed in formalin, sorted and subsequently scored for egg abundance. Trawl samples may be taken at the discretion of the scientist in charge.

MFV Altaire return to Ullapool for unloading on the morning of the 6 June 2018.

Normal contact will be retained with the laboratory throughout.

Submitted:  
F Burns  
10 May 2018

Approved:  
I Gibb  
21 May 2018

**Figure 1:** Map showing survey coverage for survey 0118H. Provisional cruise track denoted as solid red line. The proposed sample locations are denoted by red dots on the cruise track.

