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

MFV *Altaire*

Survey 0213H

PROGRAMME

13-26 March 2013

Ports

Loading: Ullapool, 13 March
Unloading: Ullapool, 26 March

*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 (which is published on the Intranet). 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
A Edridge	
L Ritchie	
G Jones	
J Mills	
I Krug	(Visitor - AZTI)
U Keating	(Visitor - MI)

Out-turn days per project: 14, RV1304.

Fishing/Sampling Gear: Gulf VII plankton sampler

Objectives

1. To carry out mackerel egg survey (ICES Triennial Survey), on the western shelf and slope in the area from 52^{o}N to 59^{o} 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 afternoon of 13 March in Ullapool and when ready proceed to the first plankton station west of the Butt of Lewis. Plankton stations will be taken west along the line 58^{0} 45N until zero eggs are found and from there the vessel will head due south and then continue sampling back eastwards along the transect at 57^{0} 45'N.

Subsequent transects south of this will be at 1^{o} intervals with stations at 30' E/W intervals. Plankton stations will be taken 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 12 trawls for the whole survey and will usually be taken at the shelf edge. The precise length of each transect cannot be defined in advance as this survey uses an adaptive design, where sampling along a transect will continue until there are no or very small numbers of eggs.

Once the transect at 52^{0} 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 27 March 2013.

Normal contact will be retained with the laboratory throughout, and with other vessels taking part in the survey.

Submitted:
Finlay Burns
8 March 2013

Approved:
I Gibb
11 March 2013

Figure 1: Map showing international survey coverage. 0213H survey area denoted as SCO1 and SCO IBTS on plot.