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MRV *Alba na Mara*

Survey 0320A

PROGRAMME

10 – 16 February 2020

Ports

Loading: 07 February 2020, Fraserburgh

Unloading: 16 February 2020, Fraserburgh

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.

Fishing Gear: Scallop dredges (6 x Standard commercial dredges, 6 x N-virodredge)

Project: 7 days, SU02NS

Objectives

1. To carry out dredge comparison trials (standard commercial gear versus N-viro dredge) in the Moray Firth.
2. To age, measure and assess shell damage on all scallops caught per dredge.
3. To collect information on by-catch of other commercial fish and shellfish species per dredge.
4. To quantify and record the number of stones each dredge catches
5. To identify, quantify numbers, and damage assess of starfish species in each dredge
6. To film each type of dredge while fishing.

Procedure

The survey will depart Fraserburgh on 10 February and, after vessel drills, make passage for the first station in the Moray Firth.

Scallop hauls will be made at a selection of stations used on previous surveys with a variety of ground types being considered (Figure 1). Hauls will be of 30 minutes duration with the gear rigged with 6 dredges aside, each side with a set-up of ABABAB (A = N-virodredge, B = Commercial dredge). Dredges will be photographed once on board and before emptying.

Each dredge's contents will be worked up individually.

All of the scallops will be measured to the half centimeter below and aged. Numbers and size distribution of commercial fish and shellfish species will be recorded, along with scallop shell damage and starfish numbers and species. The stones/rocks/boulders shall be photographed and quantified.

A Go-pro camera shall be used on one bar and footage shall be obtained of both types of dredges whilst fishing.

The survey will end in Fraserburgh on 16 February.

Normal contacts will be maintained with the laboratory.

Submitted:

J. Turriff

06 February 2020

Approved:

I. Gibb

07 February 2020

Figure 1

