

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

Charter Vessel *Sunbeam* FR 487

Cruise 0411H

PROGRAMME

4 July - 27 July 2011

Ports

Loading: Fraserburgh, 1 July

Departure: Fraserburgh, 4 July

Half-Landing: Lerwick, 16 July (approx)

Return: Fraserburgh/Peterhead 27 July approx.

Unloading: Fraserburgh/Peterhead, 27 July approx.

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 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

*E Armstrong (SIC)

C Davis

M Stewart

Project: RV1110 – 24 days

Objectives

1. To conduct an acoustic survey to enhance the precision of the survey carried out by FRV Scotia to ultimately provide an estimate of the abundance and distribution of herring in the northern North Sea (ICES area VI and VIa (N)) as part of the ICES International North Sea Herring Acoustic Survey.
2. To obtain samples of herring for biological analysis, including age, length, weight, sex, maturity and ichthyophonous infection.

Procedure

All gear will be transported to Fraserburgh by lorry on 1 July and gear will be loaded onto the vessel. Installation and testing will take place on 1 July. Scientific staff will travel by mini-bus to Fraserburgh to join the vessel on 4 July and the vessel will depart in the morning of Tuesday 5 July.

FRV Scotia, which has previously only covered area IV, will be including the area Via(N) north of the Butt of Lewis. The survey will be carried out within an area bounded by 58° 30'N to 62°N and 08°W to 2°E. Echointegration will be carried out at 38, 120 and 200 kHz on a 24 hour-a-day basis. Data from the times between 2300 and 0300 will not be used for stock assessment. Trawling operations will be carried out when the skipper has identified commercially viable marks. Samples of all species caught will be measured for length and weight to establish a length weight relationship. Otoliths will be collected from a sub-sample of the herring to determine age. The maturity state and presence of *Ichthyophonus* infection will also be recorded.

A map of the proposed survey track is given below (Figure 1). The intention is to survey mid way between FRV Scotia transects (dotted line). This will allow an increase in the number of transects sampled in areas of high fish density, as close to being simultaneous with Scotia as possible.

The survey will involve following a pre-set survey pattern, at a steaming speed of approximately 7 to 10 knots depending on the position of Scotia relative to the charter vessel. A port call will take place at an approximate half way stage in Lerwick; to provide a rest day in accordance with working time directive for a trip of this length

All gear will be unloaded in Fraserburgh on 27 July for return to the laboratory by lorry. Staff will return on the same day by minibus.

Normal contact will be maintained with the Marine Laboratory and the appropriate Fisheries Officers.

Submitted:
E Armstrong
28 June 2011

Approved:
I Gibb
30 June 2011

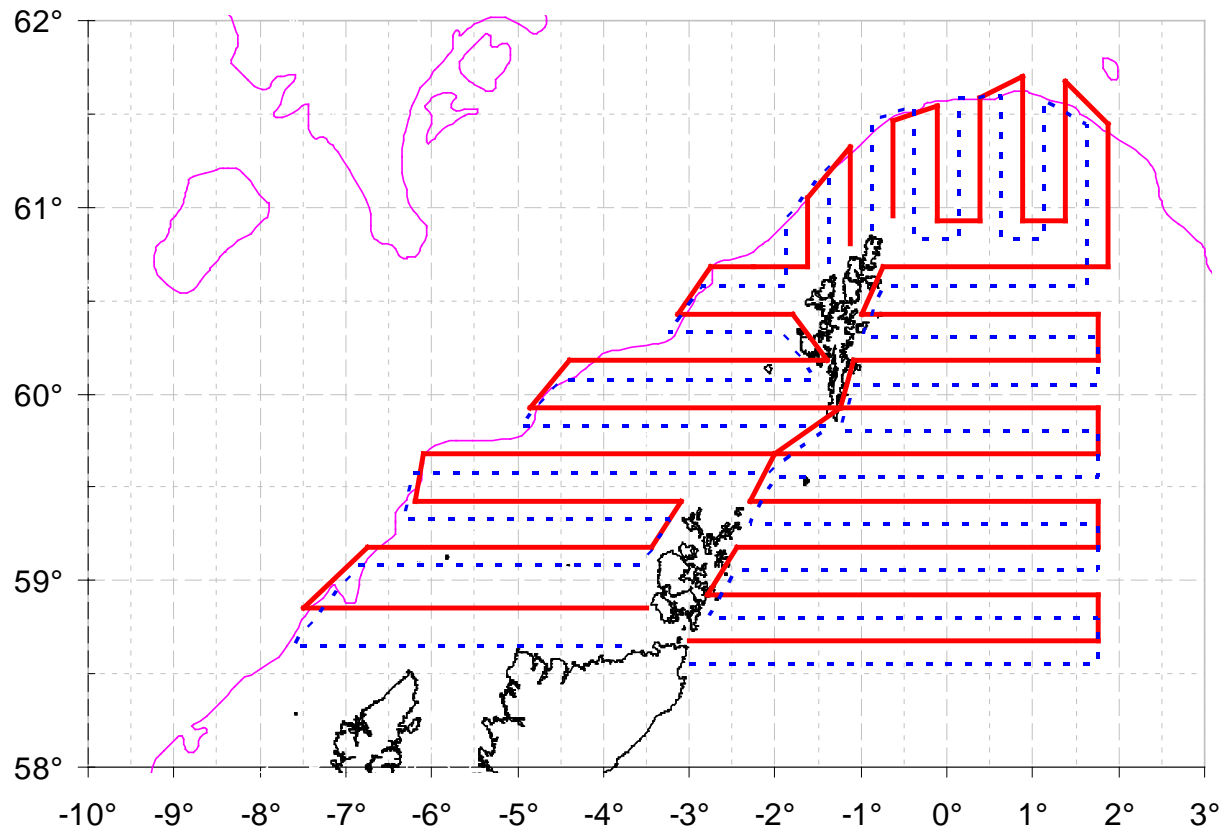


Figure 1: Proposed track of FRV Scotia (solid line) and MFV Sunbeam (dotted line) on the North Sea Herring Acoustic Survey 2011.