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MRV *Alba na Mara*

Survey 0618A

PROGRAMME

5-14 May 2018

Loading: Greenock, 2 May 2018

Boarding: Greenock, 5 May 2018

Unloading: Greenock, 14 May 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

P Boulcott SIC

J Hunter

J Clarke

D Stirling

Project: 10 days, C80280/20484

Gear

Hybrid drop/lander frame + calibration mesh

HD TV system + lights (5 plastic cages)

Armoured cable + spare + axle stands & bar

Stereo TV system

Day grab + table + 2 x sieve drawers

Background and Objectives

0618A will conduct a benthic survey of southern, west-coast waters within Scotland's jurisdiction. The primary objective of 0618A is to survey identified sites that have the potential to support benthic components of Scotland's Priority Marine Features (PMFs). Data from this survey will be used to populate species distribution models (SDMs). These SDMs will be used to increase our knowledge of PMFs located outside the Scottish MPA network and to produce area wide maps of

predicted habitat suitability. Under the MarPAMM project, data collected from this survey will also contribute to larger interregional models of species distribution.

Specific objectives are as follows:

1. To conduct UWTV video assessments of PMFs abundance within southern, west-coast waters.
2. To conduct a grab survey within areas identified as suitable for *Arctica islandica*.

Embarkation

Scientists will join the vessel on 5 May around 11:00. Weather permitting *Alba na Mara* will depart from James Watt Dock, Greenock, on the same day, heading for the first survey site.

Benthic survey

The survey will consist of a series of short (~10 min) UWTV video tows (Figure 1). To achieve this, the survey will utilise the newly built modular camera frame (combined drop and lander frame – 2460 × 1900 × 1940 mm, L × W × H) deployed from the aft of the vessel. Where the ground is hard, this frame will be deployed in the more compact drop frame configuration. Species type, species densities and substrate type (assessed visually) will be classified for each video transect post-survey.

Grab samples may also be taken in areas where the bivalve, *Arctica islandica*, has been indicated to be present. Here, sediment samples will also be taken and frozen for particle size analysis. No formalin storage will necessary during this procedure.

Operations

Survey operations will take place between the hours of 07:00 and 19:00 (all times BST). Work will cease on the morning or afternoon of 13 May to allow sufficient time for the vessel to travel to Greenock. Unloading will occur in James Watt Dock on Monday 14 May. Scientists will disembark at this time.

Normal contact will be maintained with the Laboratory.

Submitted:
P Boulcott,
20 May 2018

Approved:
I Gibb
25 May 2018

Figure 1: 2018 general survey areas.

