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MRV *Alba na Mara*

Survey 0712A

PROGRAMME

26 April – 14 May 2012

Ports

Loading: Ullapool (24-26 April 2012)

Unloading: Fraserburgh (14 May 2012)

Personnel Exchange: Oban (5 May 2012)

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 (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

*C Megginson	26 April – 5 May 2012
M Bland (SIC 5-14 May 2012)	26 April – 14 May 2012
C Shand	26 April – 14 May 2012
M McKenzie	26 April – 5 May 2012
H Green	26 April – 5 May 2012
D Walker	5 – 14 May 2012
A Keir	5 – 14 May 2012
A Sutherland	5 – 14 May 2012

Sampling Gear

TV drop frame, TV winch and cable, 2 x day grabs and RoxAnn.

Project Codes

10244 -19 days

Objectives

1. To undertake grab, underwater television (UTV) and RoxAnn surveys of West Coast sea disposal sites at Stornoway, Isle of Eigg, Sound of Canna, Lochinver and Loch Inchar and assess the condition of the seabed, identify the predominant benthic epifauna species, and the distribution of man-made debris. Some of the disposal sites are added as contingency.

2. To undertake grab, UTV and RoxAnn surveys of the Firth of Clyde sea disposal sites at Ayr Bay, Girvan, Hunterston, Cloch Point, Garroch Head, Birch Point and Broddich and assess the condition of the seabed, identify the predominant benthic epifauna species, and the distribution of man-made debris. Some of the disposal sites are added as contingency.
3. To undertake grab, UTV and RoxAnn surveys of the North Coast sea disposal sites at Scrabster and Thurso and Moray Firth sea disposal sites at Sutors, Burghead, Lossiemouth and Macduff and assess the condition of the seabed, identify the predominant benthic epifauna species, and the distribution of man-made debris. Some of the disposal sites are added as contingency.
4. To undertake UTV survey of Loch Creran as part of an investigation into removal of mooring blocks (provisional and dependent on Crown Estate).
5. Sediment samples for Objectives 1, 2 and 3 will be analysed for chemical and physical parameters.

Procedure

Scientific staff and equipment will be transported to Ullapool during the morning of 24/25 April, to load the vessel and set-up selected survey equipment. Cruise personnel will join the vessel at Ullapool during the morning of 26 April. The *Alba na Mara* will depart Ullapool as soon as possible, and proceed to Isle of Eigg sea disposal site to start the work programme outlined in Objectives 1-4. Each sea disposal site will be surveyed in turn, moving south to the Firth of Clyde before heading north via Girvan sea disposal site to Oban. The crew change, where D Walker, A Keir and A Sutherland will replace C Megginson, M McKenzie and H Green will occur on 5 May. The *Alba na Mara* will then proceed to Loch Creran – provisionally, or Canna to continue with the remaining objectives as outlined above, arriving in Fraserburgh for unloading on 14 May.

Submitted:
Colin Megginson
23 March 2012

Approved:
I Gibb
18 April 2012