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MRV Alba na Mara

Survey 0812A

PROGRAMME

17-23 May 2012

Ports

Loading : Fraserburgh, 14 May 2012

Unloading : Fraserburgh, 23 May 2012

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)

R Watret

B Scott (Visitor – Aberdeen University)

J Waggitt (Visitor – Aberdeen University)

M Chimienti (Visitor – Aberdeen University)

Estimated days by project: 7 days – REO1q (20080)

SamplingGear

Imagenex DT837 multibeam sonar (pole mounted transducer)

Simrad EK60 multi-frequency scientific sounder

Seabird 19 CTD plus ancillaries, water sampler and filtering equipment

PT 154 pelagic trawl

Objectives

To determine what influences seabird's diving behaviours in the high-energy environments favoured for tidal stream turbine installations (see Figure 1 for overview of work areas).

Procedures

General

Loading of equipment will take place on 14 May with setting-up and testing activities continuing on 15 and 16 May. On completion of safety drills and vessel tours on the morning of 17 May, *Alba na Mara* will sail and make passage to Scapa Flow. On arrival the vessel will go to anchor in a suitable location and remain there while the two sonar systems are calibrated overnight (estimated to take in the region of 5-6 hours). On completion of this task, *Alba* will sail for the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) Nursery Site (see Figure 2) in Shapinsay Sound where an acoustic and visual seabird survey will commence (details of transect positions and survey methods will be provided and discussed with the skipper and SIC before work commences). Up to three CTD dips and associated water samples will also be collected each day of the two days this work is expected to take to complete. The vessel will remain in the vicinity of the Nursery Site for this time. *Alba na Mara* will then move to the EMEC Test Site in the Fall of Warness area (see Figure 3) where seabird surveys and water sampling will again take place as described above (details of transect positions and survey methods will be provided and discussed with the skipper and SIC before work commences). On completion of work in this area (estimated two and a half to three days), *Alba* will leave the Orkney sites and return to Fraserburgh for off loading on the morning of 23 May.

EMEC Risk Assessments have been completed and permission to enter both test sites has been applied for. Contact with EMEC will be maintained as required for the length of the cruise.

If time permits, fishing with the PT 154 pelagic trawl may be carried out in an area near to Shapinsay Sound and to the NW of the EMEC Test Site in the Fall of Warness, ensuring that no contact is made with any hardware installed on the seabed.

Normal contacts will be maintained with the Laboratory.

Submitted:
M R Robertson
03 May 2012

Approved
I Gibb
14 May 2012

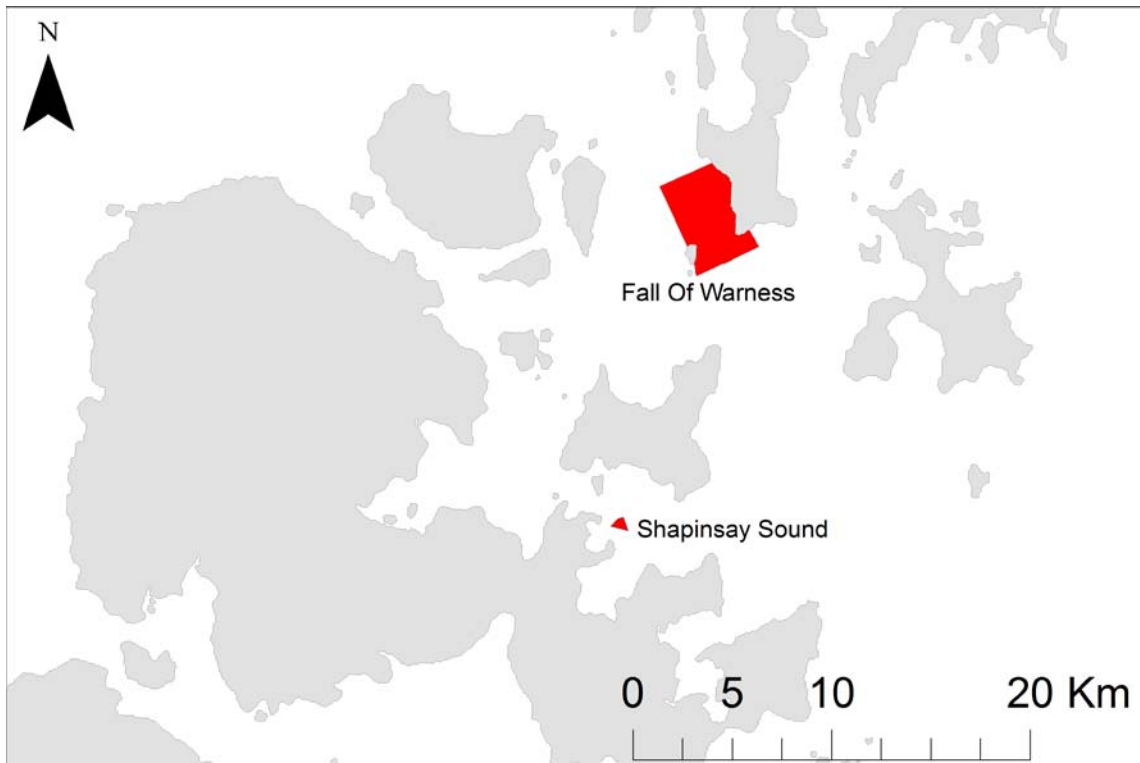


Figure 1



Figure 2

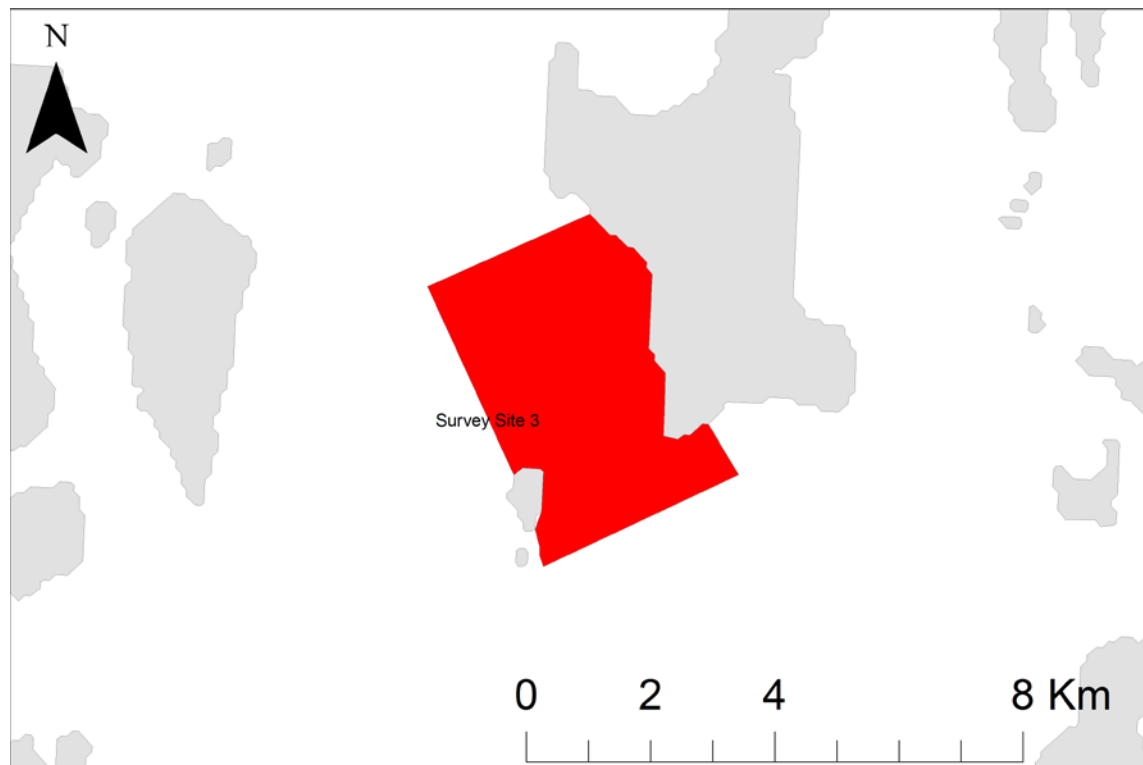


Figure 3