

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

MRV *Scotia*

Survey 1318S
Rockall Haddock Survey

PROGRAMME

19 September – 1 October 2018

Ports

Loading: Aberdeen, 15 September 2018

Unloading: Aberdeen, 01 October 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

F Burns	(SIC)
J Dooley	(Deck)
J Drewery	
M Gault	
P Diaz	
L Clayton	
C Altass	
D Stirling	(Grab)
B Langlands	(SFF - Visitor)

Estimated Days per Project: 13 days – RV1812/20506

Fishing Gear

GOV Trawl (BT 137) with ground gear D

Other Gear

CTD – Seabird 19+
Van Veen Grab

Objectives

- To undertake the bottom trawl survey of haddock on Rockall Bank to a depth of 350 m.
- To deploy a CTD at selected trawl stations to collect temperature and salinity profiles.
- To collect sediment samples at selected stations.
- To record marine litter at each trawl station for MSFD.

Procedure

The primary objective of this survey is to assess the state of the haddock stock on the Rockall Plateau. The Rockall haddock survey utilises a semi random stratified survey design comprising four depth-separated sampling strata. Sampling intensity within each of the four strata reflects the fish density observed in each of these during previous surveys. Trawling will be carried out during the hours of daylight at randomly selected locations within the 350 m contour. Forty primary tow positions have been generated and their allocation within each depth stratum is displayed in Figure 1. The number of stations within each depth strata is as follows: five stations at 0-150 m, 21 stations at 150-200 m, ten stations at 200-250 m and four stations at 250-350 m. *Scotia* will undertake a trawl haul within five miles of each station position where possible or, failing that, choose an alternative. The minimum spacing between trawl locations is set at 7 nm. A further 22 secondary stations across the various strata have been generated to provide a source of additional stations and/or alternatives should any primary station prove unfishable. Where time allows additional hauls will be conducted outside the existing strata (R1-R4) in depths between 350-500 m. This is a periodic check that is undertaken to test the current depth boundary at 350 m (see Figure 1).

One haul of 30 minutes duration will be made at each sampling station. Daily start times for survey stations will be at approximately 06:00 hours and continue until approximately 20:00 hours. The Scanmar system will be used to monitor the headline height, wing spread and door spread for each haul. Bottom contact data from each trawl will also be collected using the NOAA bottom contact sensor which will be mounted on a bar in the centre of the ground-gear. In addition to the routine sampling, biological data will be collected for target species in line with the EU data regulation. All fish will be processed in accordance with the protocols as described in the Manual of the IBTS North Eastern Atlantic Surveys. *Series of ICES Survey Protocols SISP 15. 92 pp. <http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.3519>*.

During trawl downtime at night, *Scotia* will take sediment samples using a Van Veen Grab. The sampling positions for the grabs will be confirmed on a day to day basis and will be influenced by vessel location at the end of each trawling period. Regular planning meetings with the fishing master and captain will take place during the survey and will be scheduled at a time that is mutually convenient to all those concerned.

Normal contacts will be maintained with the Laboratory.

Submitted:
F Burns
27 August 2018.

Approved:
I Gibb
31 August 2018.

Figure 1: Survey map showing stations generated for 1318S. Red stratum (R1) = 0-150 m depth, green stratum (R2) = 150-200 m, blue stratum (R3) = 200-250 m and light-blue stratum (R4) = 250-350 m. Boxes/polygons represent restricted or closed areas. Closed circles = primary haul positions, open circles = secondary haul positions. Potential station positions > 350m depth are denoted as black open circles.

