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MRV *Alba na Mara*

Survey 1421A

PROGRAMME

14 - 26 October 2021

Ports: Troon

Loading: Troon

Unloading: Troon

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.

Fishing Gear: Scallop dredges

Project: 13 days, SU02N0

Objectives

1. To carry out a dredge survey of king scallops in the Clyde.
2. To age, measure and assess shell damage for all king scallops caught.
3. To collect information on by-catch of other commercial fish and shellfish species.
4. To identify and quantify all starfish species in all dredge tows.
5. To collect data on king scallop ring measurements.
6. To collect king scallop meat weight and biological data.
7. To record and retain marine litter obtained during the dredging process.
8. To collect frozen whole scallops for heavy metal testing as part of the OSPAR assessment of hazardous substances in the marine environment.
9. To collect tissue samples for genetic testing.
10. To collect scallop shells to form part of a reference set for Scotland

Procedure

The survey will depart from Troon on the 14th of October with the aim of conducting a dredge survey of king scallops in the Clyde region. A preliminary survey to collect king scallop catch rate data in this area was carried out in 2019. A total of 47 stations have been selected (from the original 2019 survey) to repeat this year (Figure 1). The survey will also collect biological information on this species.

Vessel drills will be conducted as required and the vessel will head to the first station. Scallop dredge hauls will be conducted at stations shown in Figure 1. These positions have been agreed in collaboration with fisherman, industry representatives and external stakeholders.

Hauls will be of 30 minutes duration. From each haul, all king scallops will be measured to the half centimeter below and aged. In addition, numbers and size distribution of commercial fish and shellfish species will be recorded along with scallop shell damage and starfish numbers and species. A sub sample of king scallops will be selected for ring measurements to enable growth studies. A separate sub sample will be dissected to collect biological data which will include examination of the gonad to try and ascertain spawning period. Scallops (10 individuals per station) will also be collected from selected sites and frozen for heavy metal analysis back at the laboratory. Any litter collected in the dredges will be recorded as set out in the standard operating procedure and placed in bags to be disposed of on return to port. Scallop shells will be collected during the survey at various stations with a variety of ages to form part of MSS's reference set of scallop shells.

The survey will end on 26 October 2021 and the vessel will berth in Troon where all equipment and staff will then return to the laboratory.

All operations on board will be performed in compliance with the required regulations and guidance associated with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Normal contacts will be maintained with the laboratory.

Submitted:
J. Turriff
17 September 2021

Approved:
I. Gibb
12 October 2021

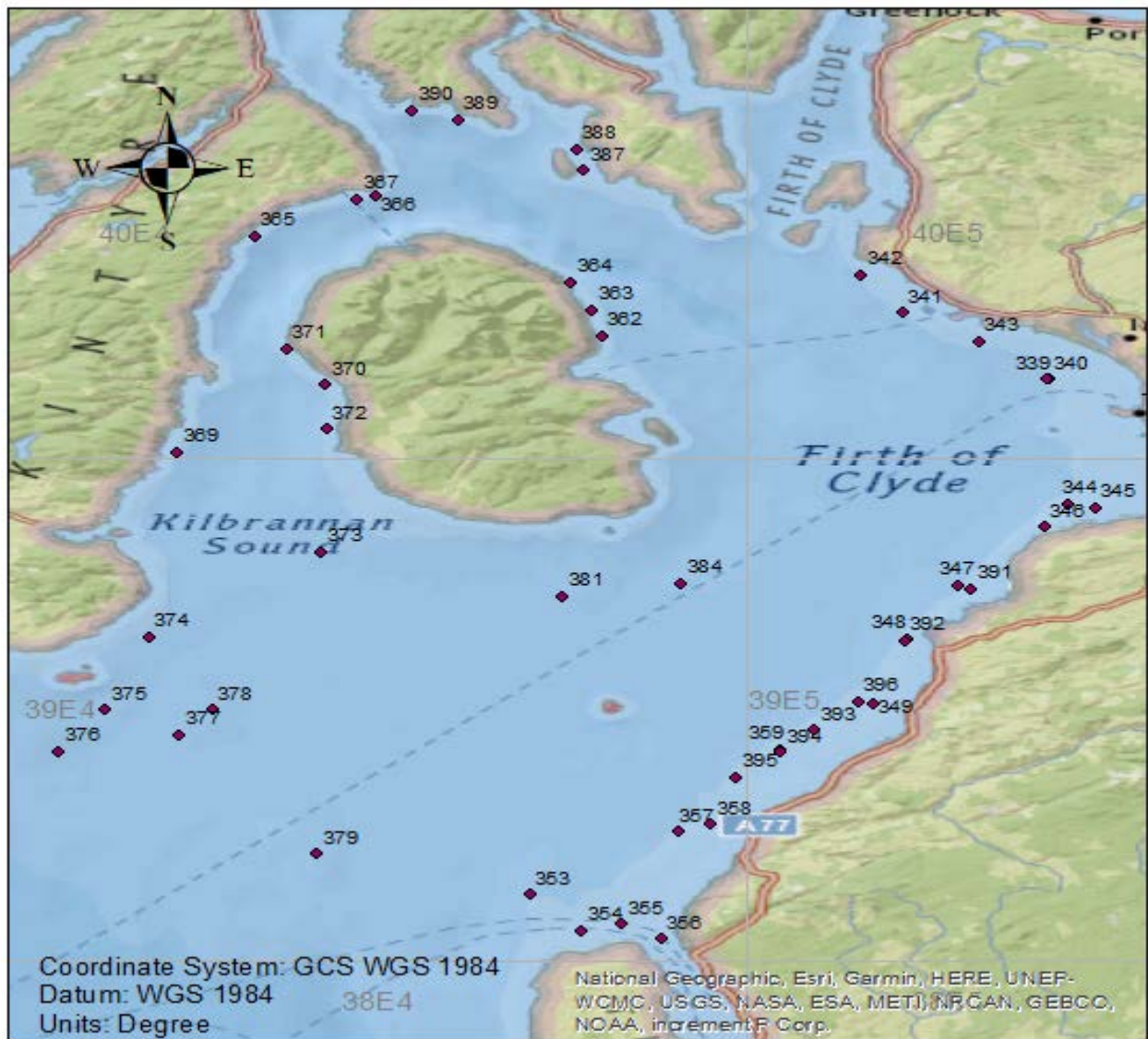


Figure 1