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MRV Scotia

Survey 1422S

PROGRAMME

14th – 22nd October 2022

Ports: Aberdeen

Loading: Aberdeen, 11th October 2022

Unloading: Aberdeen, 22nd October 2022

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.

Estimated Days per Project: 9 days – RE02A0, 20365

Equipment:

- Multi corer
- Day grab and grab table
- Multi-beam
- CTD

Objectives:

1. Oil and gas well site sampling using a multicorer to assess seabed recovery after decommissioning. Day grabs to be taken as sampling back up
2. Multibeam surveying and sediment sampling around decommissioned oil and gas platform grounds in North Sea and north east of Shetland

Additional tasks:

3. Deploy multibeam over previously, 2019, deployed locations for drop cameras to assess future retrieval potential
4. North Sea hydrographic sampling using CTD

Procedure

All equipment will be loaded on Scotia when the previous trip returns to Aberdeen harbour on the 11th October.

Marine Scotland personnel will set up the equipment and prepare the vessel for surveying prior to departure on 14th October.
All scientific personnel will join the vessel on the 13th October and stay aboard overnight before sailing.

The survey will start on 14th October when the Scotia will sail to an agreed start point for the surveying of decommissioned Oil and Gas drilling platforms.

The specific platforms to be surveyed are in the process of being selected at this point and these positions will be delivered to the bridge command of the Scotia before sailing. Murchison, Ninian NNP, Brent South and Jacky are possible.

Scotia will return to Aberdeen harbour on the evening of the 21st October and will unload equipment and samples on 22nd October.

Scientific procedures

Once MRV Scotia arrives at a chosen decommissioned platform, the multi corer will be deployed in daylight hours to gather sediment samples at various distances from the platform. The remainder of the working hours shall be used undertaking a multibeam survey around the pre-selected area.

Cores of seabed sediment will be extracted by deploying the multicorer at seven progressively further distances in metres (50, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1200, 2500) from the abandoned platform. This sampling will be done at one of the platforms, preferably two of them, if time allows.

At least two hours will be spent calibrating the multibeam equipment at some point during the survey.

Multibeam surveys will cover a ~5 square km area where possible and where time allows. Seabed structures will be scanned from more than one direction to allow a faithful representation of their extent and features.

If time allows, the multibeam will be deployed over a row of baited cameras that were deployed in 2019 in the vicinity of the Hutton platforms to assess their likelihood of future recovery.

The scientific staff will work in shifts to complete as much work as possible within the available time and within working hour guidelines.

A possible contingency plan for unworkable weather is for the Scotia to complete a series of sediment sampling sites east and west of Shetland and Orkney. These sites are part of a study to be completed by Nature Scotland.

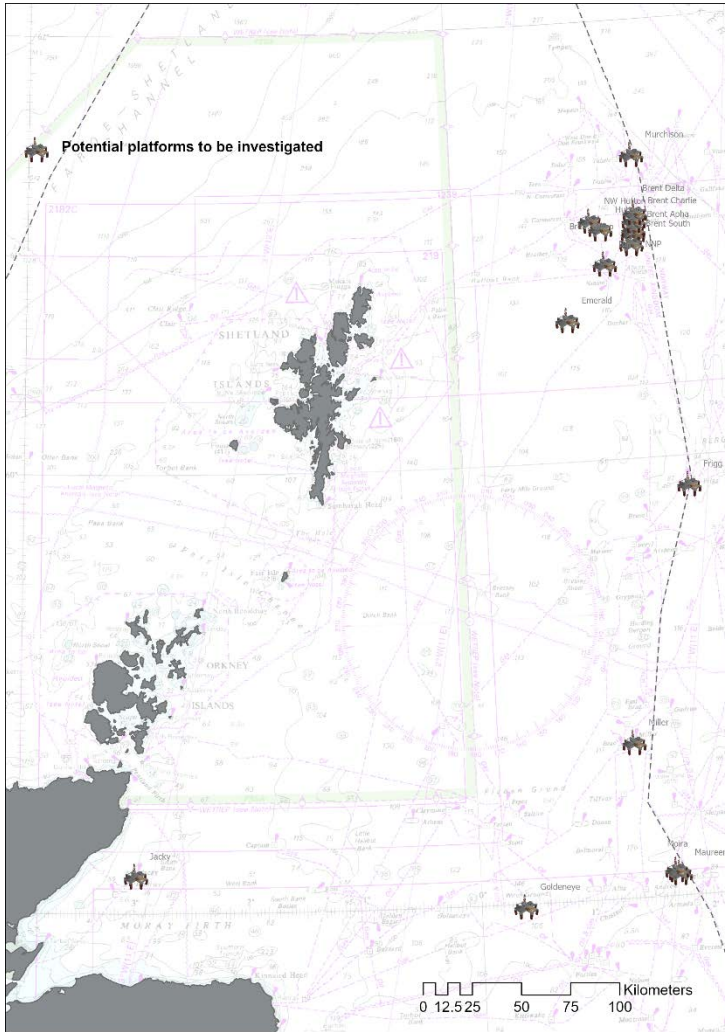


Figure 1: Platforms will be surveyed using the multibeam and the sediment around them will be surveyed using the coring device.

Normal contact will be maintained with the laboratory

Submitted:
R. Watret
10 October 2022

Approved:
I. Gibb
11 October 2022