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MRV *Alba na Mara*

Survey 1522A

PROGRAMME

10th – 18th October 2022

Ports

Loading: Oban, 06 October 2022

Unloading: Troon (TBC), 18 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.

Project: SU01B1 (20738) – 9 days

Sampling Equipment: PT154, EK60

Objectives

1. To conduct an acoustic survey designed to survey the area where the 6a sprat fishery has taken place in the preceding decade years, to ultimately provide an estimate of the abundance and distribution of sprat in the area.
2. Obtain samples of herring and sprat 3 per half cm for biological analysis, including age, length, weight, sex, maturity and ichthyophonus infection.
3. All other species caught will be measured for length.
4. Genetics will be taken for 30 fish per haul except where fish are found to be spawning in this case 100 fish will be sampled genetically to contribute to a genetic baseline. Herring will also be sampled for genetics at 50 per haul with associated biological sampling as above for each of these fish.

Procedure

Fishing gear will be transported to Oban by lorry on 06th October and loaded onto the vessel. Scientific staff will travel by lab vehicle to join the vessel in Oban on 09th October. The vessel will commence the survey on 10th October at the earliest opportunity.

The survey will be carried out within an area bounded by approximately 56.3°N to 57.4°N and 05.5° W to 06.5°. Echointegration will be carried out at 38 kHz. Data gathered in the hours of darkness will not be used for stock assessment. Trawling operations will be carried out as and when marks are identified. Otoliths will be collected from a sub-sample of the herring and sprat 3 per half cm to determine age. The maturity state and presence of *Ichthyophonus* infection will also be recorded as will genetic samples for stock identification purposes.

The track will be based on that shown in Figures 1 and 2. Staff will use their judgement as to which strata can be completed in the time available, based on prevailing conditions.

TSG data will be gathered during the survey.

The survey will involve following a pre-set survey pattern, at a steaming speed of 8 knots.

The vessel will berth at Troon at the end of the survey ready for unloading on 18th October. Staff will return to the laboratory on the 18th of October by lab vehicle.

Normal contact will be maintained with the Marine Laboratory.

Submitted:
S. O'Connell
04th October 2022

Approved:
I. Gibb
05th October 2022

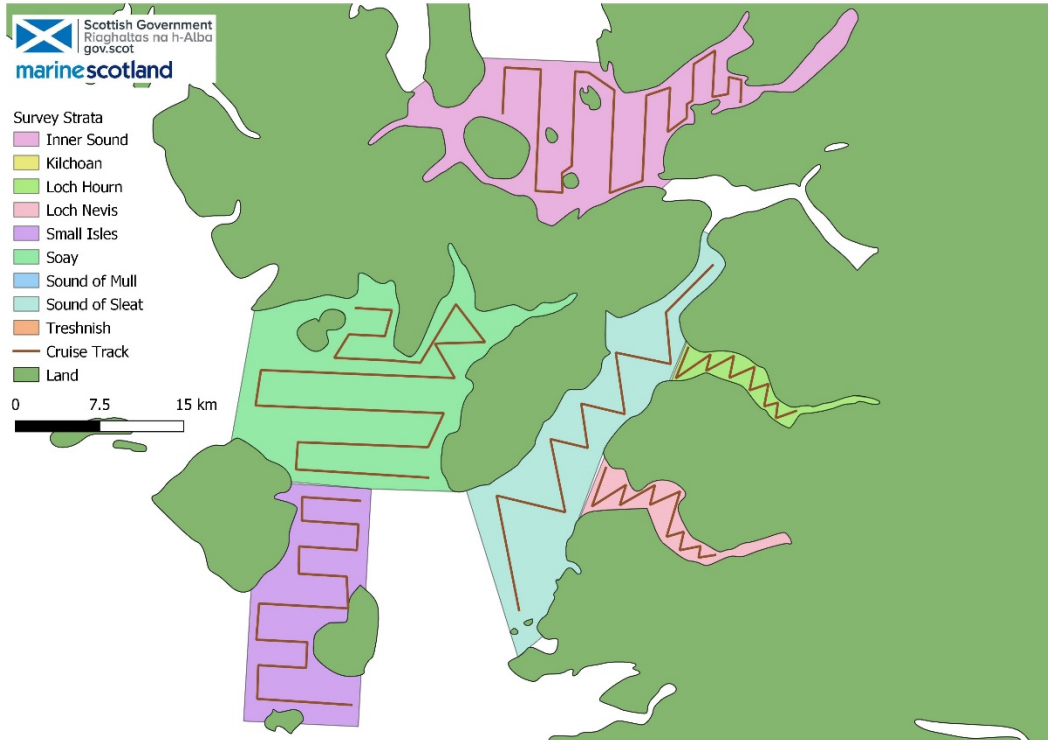


Figure 1: Proposed survey track and strata to be executed by MRV *Alba na Mara* on the West Coast Sprat Acoustic Survey, October 2022 (northern part).

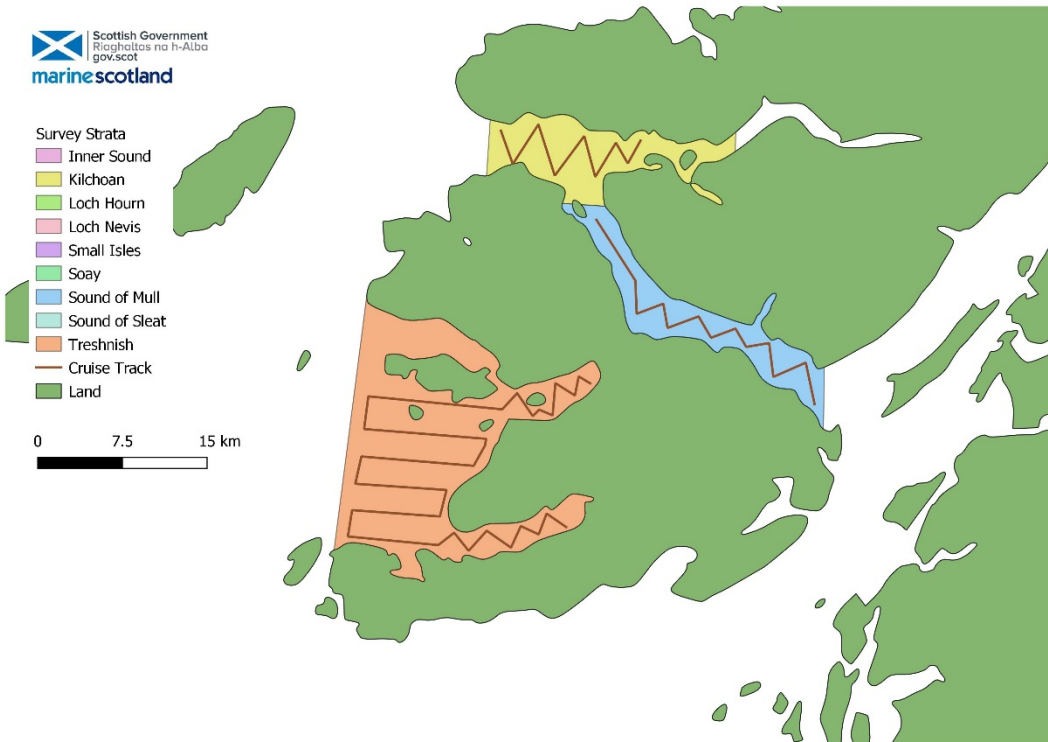


Figure 2: Proposed survey track and strata to be executed by MRV *Alba na Mara* on the West Coast Sprat Acoustic Survey, October 2022 (southern part).