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MRV *Alba na Mara*

Survey 1617A

## **PROGRAMME**

21 September – 10 October 2017

**Loading:** Mallaig, 21 September 2017

**Half-landing:** Troon, 29/30 September 2017

**Unloading:** Greenock, 10 October 2017

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**

P Boulcott	SIC
J Hunter	
D Eerkes-Medrano	21 September – 30 September
C Greathead	21 September – 30 September
J Clarke	30 September – 10 October
D Stirling	30 September – 10 October

**Project:** 20 days, 20113

### **Gear**

New drop/lander frame + calibration mesh

HD TV system + lights

Armoured cable + spare + axle stands

Stereo TV system

## **Background and Objectives**

1617A will survey the waters around the Small Isles Marine Protected Area (MPA). The primary objective of this survey is to survey monitoring sites previously visited in 2012-2016 that support Scotland's Priority Marine Features (PMFs). Work from these surveys will be used to determine the effect of MPAs established in Scottish waters. A secondary objective is that the data will

contribute to a potential impact (BACI) study once protective measures within the MPA are introduced. Work will cease on the afternoon of 28 September to allow time to travel to Troon on 29 September for the half landing on 30 September. There will be a change of scientific staff at the half landing. If weather permits, after the half landing a further study of sites in and around the South Arran MPA will be conducted to survey monitoring sites previously visited in 2015 and 2016. Specific objectives are as follows:

1. To conduct further assessments of *Funiculina quadrangularis* abundance within the Small Isles MPA and areas outside.
2. To further survey known populations of other priority marine feature (PMF) species within and outside the Small Isles MPA.
3. To conduct further assessments of PMF abundance within the South Arran MPA and areas outside.

## **Embarkation**

Scientists will join the vessel on 21 September. Weather permitting *Alba na Mara* will depart from Mallaig on the same day, heading for the first survey box.

## **Benthic Survey**

UW HDTV surveys of the seabed at various sites inside and outside the Small Isles MPA (Figure 1) and the South Arran MPA (Figure 2) will be carried out. The survey will utilise the newly built modular camera frame (combined drop and lander frame – 2460 × 1900 × 1940 mm, L × W × H) deployed from the aft of the vessel. Species type, species densities and substrate type (assessed visually) will be classified for each video transect post-survey.

## **Operations**

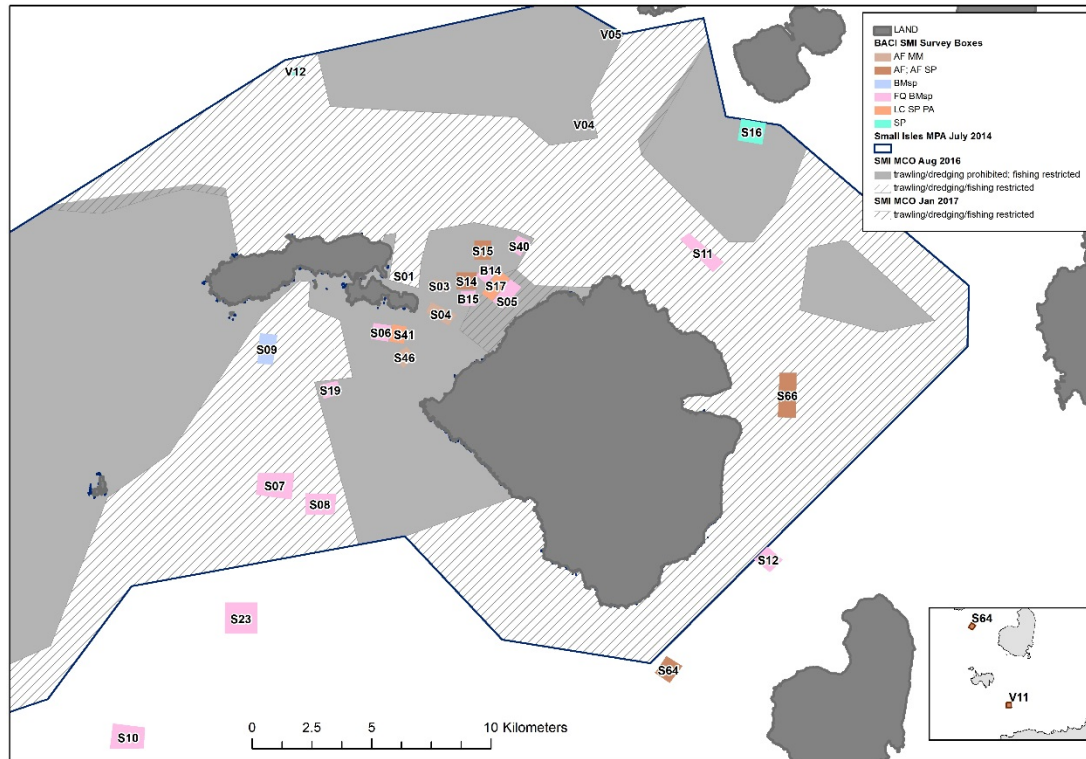
Survey operations will take place between the hours of 07:00 and 19:00 (all times BST). Work will cease on the afternoon or afternoon of Monday 9 October to allow sufficient time for the vessel to travel to Greenock. Unloading will occur in Greenock harbour on Tuesday 10 October. Scientists will also disembark the vessel on Tuesday 10 October.

Normal contact will be maintained with the Laboratory.

Submitted:  
P Boulcott  
14 August 2017

Approved:  
I Gibb  
29 August 2017

**Figure 1: 2017 survey areas: Small Isles MPA UWTV Survey Boxes.**



**Figure 2: 2017 survey areas: South Arran MPA UWTV Survey Boxes.**

