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MRV *Alba na Mara*

Survey 1718A (a)

PROGRAMME

26 October – 05 November 2018

Ports

Loading: Greenock, 23 October 2018

Staff change: Greenock, 02 November 2018

Survey end: Campbeltown, 05 November 2018

Unloading: Fraserburgh, 12 November 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.

Project: SU02NP (20158) – 11 days

Equipment: PT154, CTD

Objectives

1. To conduct an acoustic survey designed to survey both the open and enclosed areas of the Clyde to ultimately provide an estimate of age disaggregated abundance and distribution of herring and sprat.
2. To obtain samples of herring and sprat for biological analysis, including age, length, weight, sex, maturity and ichthyophonus infection.
3. All other species caught will be measured for length and weight to establish a length weight relationship.
4. CTD profiles will be taken at the end of each trawl.
5. Tissue samples will be collected for genetic stock identification study

Procedure

Fishing gear and scientific equipment will be transported to Greenock on 23 October and loaded onto the vessel. Scientific staff join the vessel in Greenock on 25 October. The vessel will commence the survey on 26 Oct at the earliest opportunity after all drills have been completed.

The survey will be carried out within an area bounded by approx. 55°N to 56°N and 04° 40' W to 05° 40' W. Echo integration will be carried out at 38, 120 and 200 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 to determine age. The maturity stage and presence of *Ichthyophonus* infection will also be recorded.

A CTD profile will be taken at the end of each trawl and TSG data will be gathered throughout the survey.

The track will be similar to that completed in 2017 (Figure 1).

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

Alba will return to Campbeltown to disembark scientific staff on 05 November 2018

Normal contact will be maintained with the Marine Laboratory.

Submitted:

S. O'Connell and S. Lusseau

12 October 2018

Approved:

I. Gibb

16 October 2018

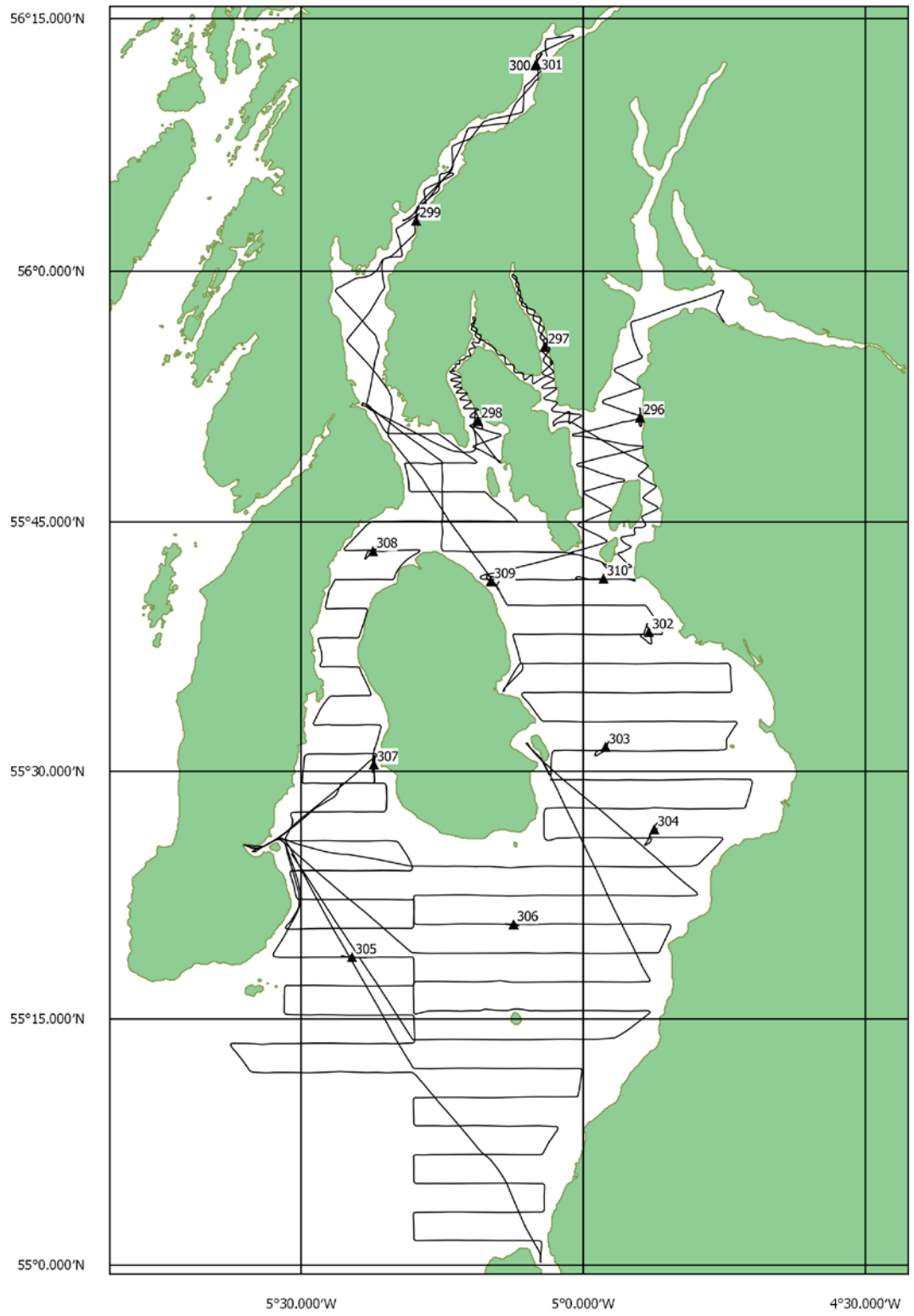


Figure 1. MRV Alba na Mara vessel track from the Clyde Herring Acoustic Survey, October 2017. The 2018 survey will follow a similar track.