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MRV *Alba na Mara*

Survey 1813A

PROGRAMME

6 - 20 December 2013

Loading: Leith, 4 December 2013

Unloading: Fraserburgh, 20 December 2013

Port Call: Montrose/Fraserburgh (TBC), 14 December 2013 (provisional)

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 cruise ending. In the case of the Survey Summary Report a nil return is required, if appropriate.

Personnel

J Clarke	SIC
C Shand	6 – 14 Dec
M Gault	6 – 20 Dec
T Regnier	6 – 20 Dec
C Hall	14 – 20 Dec

Out-turn days per project: SU02ND - 15 days

Equipment

Sandeel dredge x 2 (modified 4' scallop dredge with 6" teeth and spare toothbars)
Towing bar and camera attachment.
TV Camera.
Minilogger.
Fish tank 1.5 x 1 m

Objectives

1. To determine the abundance, length and age of sandeels in the sediment in regions east of the Firth of Forth and around Turbot bank.
2. To collect and preserve frozen samples of sandeels for analysis of age and maturity.
3. Collect approx. 300 live sandeels for an egg development experiment.

Procedure

All required gear will be loaded onto the vessel on 4 December. Scientific staff will be transported to Leith to join the vessel on 6 December.

Two regions of historical importance for sandeel fishing will be surveyed (see Fig. 1). In the first half of the survey a series of 8 dredge stations to the east of the Firth of Forth will be sampled following the protocol established in 1999. A modified scallop dredge will be used to catch sandeels buried in the substrate at the priority stations given in Table 1 and Fig. 2. Further stations in this region will be sampled if time permits. In the second half of the survey, the dredge will be deployed at stations 20 - 36 in the Turbot bank region (Table 1, Fig. 2). Ideally 5 repeat tows will be conducted at each station although this may be reduced to a minimum of 2 if catch quantities are low or available time is limited. Dredge duration will be approximately 10 minutes.

At each dredge station, all sandeels will be identified to species level, measured, and otoliths (5, 8 or 10 depending on length strata, per half centimetre) will be taken for age determination. From each of the survey locations, sub-samples of 100 sandeels < 9 cm TL and 100 sandeels \geq 9 cm TL (age 1+) will be frozen individually for later analysis.

Towards the end of the survey, time permitting, additional tows will be carried out with the intention of capturing live sandeels for an egg development experiment. If successful, aquarium staff will be notified to collect them from Fraserburgh for transport back to the laboratory.

Following the completion of survey work, *Alba na Mara* will return to Fraserburgh for unloading on 20 December 2013.

Normal contacts will be maintained with the laboratory.

Submitted:
J Clarke
25 November 2013

Approved:
I Gibb
03 December 2013

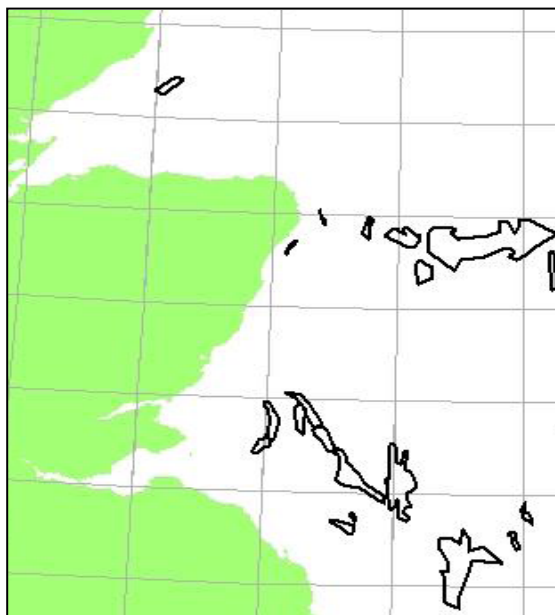


Figure 1: Location of important sandeel fishing areas.

Station	Latitude	Longitude	Depth (m)
1	56°05.880' N	01°20.460' W	46
2	56°07.380' N	01°23.280' W	51
3	56°13.560' N	02°03.240' W	37
4	56°14.580' N	02°02.340' W	41
7	56°24.840' N	02°25.980' W	29
8	56°25.080' N	01°58.800' W	44
9	56°28.020' N	01°43.920' W	49
10	56°21.840' N	01°41.760' W	42
11	56°15.240' N	02°01.440' W	41
12	56°14.940' N	01°58.620' W	44
17	56°03.900' N	01°19.620' W	45
18	55°47.700' N	01°19.680' W	54
19	56°39.960' N	01°48.300' W	60
20	57°19.200' N	01°06.420' W	
21	57°42.780' N	01°13.080' W	
22	57°44.400' N	01°25.620' W	
23	57°46.500' N	01°28.980' W	
24	57°23.940' N	00°42.300' W	
26	57°23.460' N	01°47.340' W	
27	57°42.720' N	01°35.400' W	
28	57°41.100' N	01°35.040' W	
29	57°43.200' N	02°12.960' W	
30	57°22.140' N	00°41.580' W	
31	57°24.300' N	00°48.600' W	
32	57°22.080' N	00°50.280' W	
33	57°21.900' N	00°57.060' W	
34	57°25.020' N	00°53.340' W	
35	57°25.560' N	01°06.960' W	
36	57°24.000' N	01°02.520' W	

Table 1: Location of dredge stations. Priority stations are highlighted.

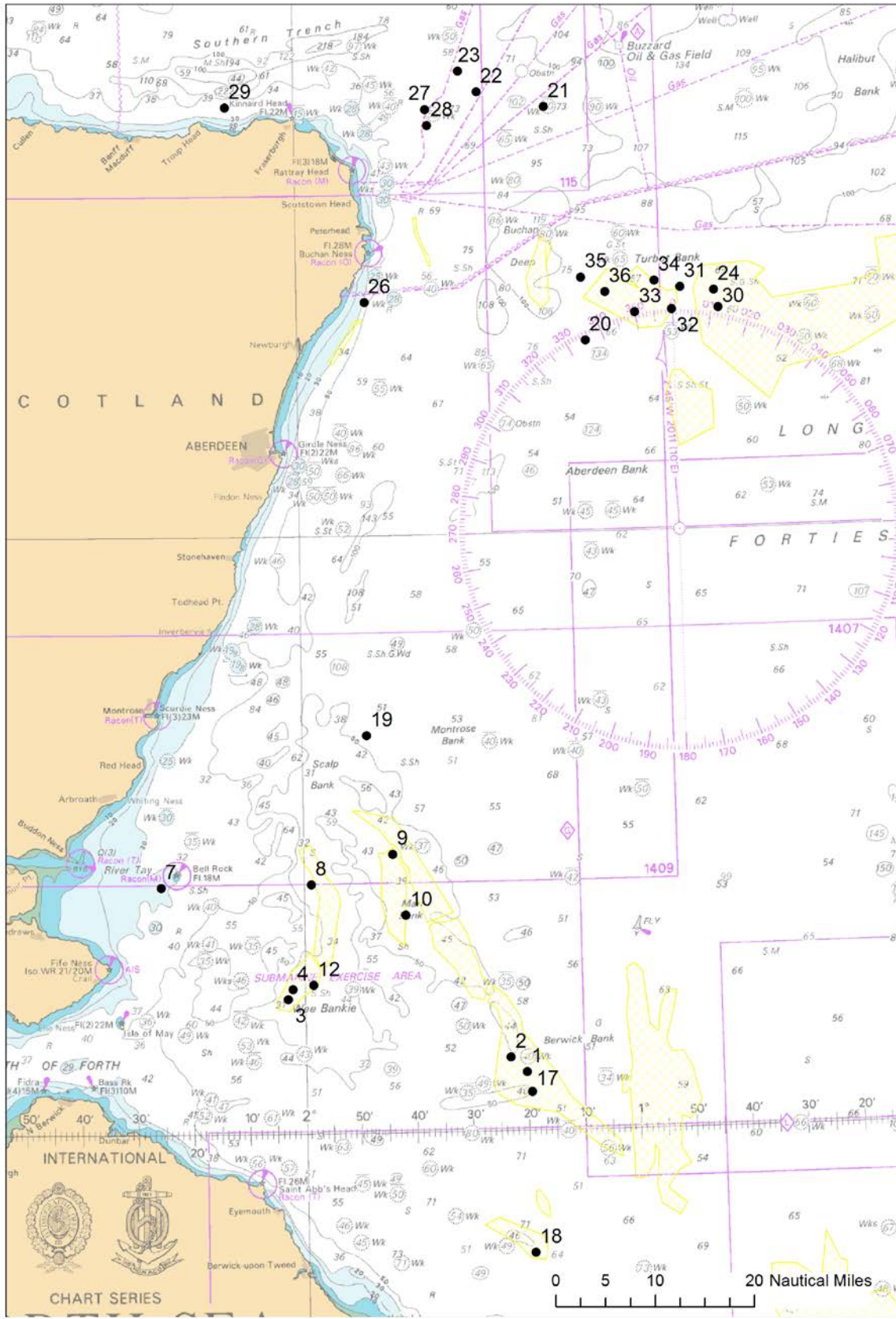


Figure 2: Dredge stations to be sampled during 1813A.