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MRV *Alba na Mara*

Survey 1817A

PROGRAMME

20 October - 3 November 2017

Ports

Loading: Greenock, 17 October 2017

Unloading: Greenock, 3 November 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

E Armstrong (SIC)
D Copland
S O'Connell
G McAllister

Project: SU02NP (20158) – 15 days

Sampling 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 the 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.

Procedure

Fishing gear will be transported to Greenock by lorry on 17 October and loaded onto the vessel. Scientific staff will travel by lab vehicle to join the vessel in Greenock on 19 October. The vessel will commence the survey on 20 October at the earliest opportunity.

The survey will be carried out within an area bounded by approximately 55°N to 56°N and 04° 40' W to 05° 40' W. Echointegration 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 state and presence of *Icthyophonus* infection will also be recorded.

A CTD profile will be taken at the end of each trawl.

The track will be similar to that of previous surveys (Figure 1).

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 James Watt Dock, Greenock at the end of the survey ready for unloading on 3 November 2017. Staff will return to the laboratory on 3 November by minibus.

Normal contact will be maintained with the Marine Laboratory.

Submitted:
E Armstrong
06 October 2017

Approved:
I Gibb
09 October 2017

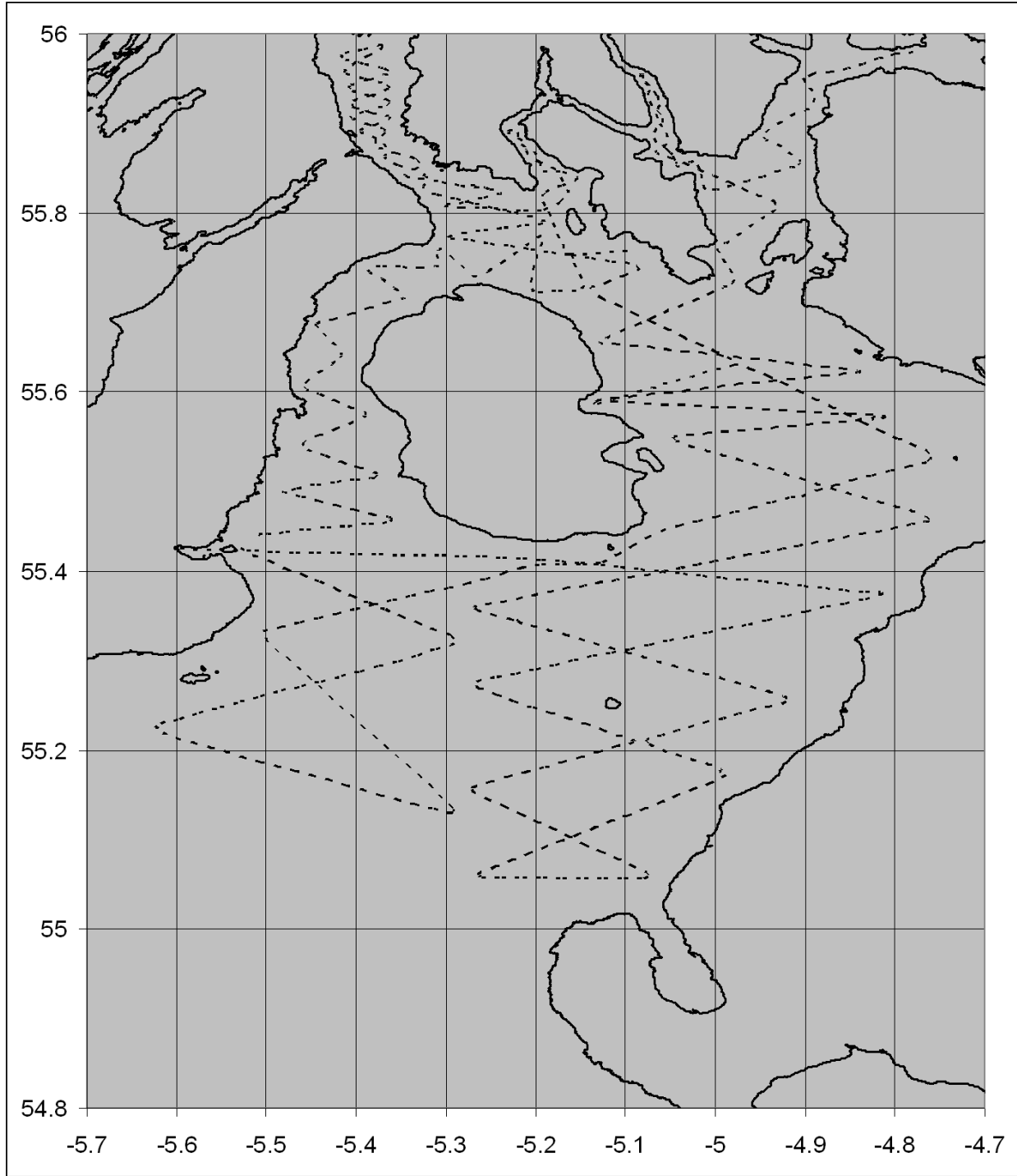


Figure 1: Track executed by MRV *Alba na Mara* on the Clyde Herring Acoustic Survey October 2012.