

P17/8

Not to be cited without reference to Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen

Charter Fishing Vessel *MFV Noronya*

3109H Crab tagging SISP (Offshore)

## **PROGRAMME**

8-15 February 2010 (weather dependent)

## **Ports**

**Loading:** Stromness, 8 February

**Unloading:** Stromness, 15 February

In setting the cruise 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 cruise with staff on-board before work is commenced.

In the interest of efficient data management it is now mandatory to return the Cruise Report, to I Gibb and the Cruise Summary Report (old ROSCOP form) to D Lichtman, within four weeks of a cruise ending. In the case of the Cruise Summary Report a nil return is required, if appropriate.

## **Personnel**

G Jones (SIC)

P Gibson

**Project:** – MF06R06 10632 - 7 days

## **Fishing Gear**

Vessel's own crab pots and bait

## **Other Equipment**

GPS units

Tagging equipment

Table

## **Objectives**

1. To increase the knowledge of the offshore crab stocks to the North of Scotland.
2. To tag Brown Crab, of a range of sizes, from the North of Scotland for investigations of their movements. Tagging will involve using both high visibility double t-bar tags that are retained on moulting and 'cable-tie' type tags which will be attached to the claws of some of the animals.

3. To biologically sample all tagged Brown Crab for carapace width, shell condition, sex and reproductive state (of females) along with date, time and latitude, longitude, and depth of the return location.

### **Procedure**

All gear and scientific equipment will be loaded onto the vessel in Stromness on the evening of Monday 8 February. After the installation of gear is complete, the vessel will depart and, weather permitting, make passage to offshore fishing grounds North West of Orkney. The vessels crew will be responsible for hauling and removing crabs from pots. Marine Scotland scientific staff will deal with the catch, selecting male and female crabs for tagging, conducting the tagging and recording time, date, biological and positional information before release

Daily working plan for the vessel will be to carry out as many creel hauls per day as possible. With an estimated 50-80 animals being tagged per hour, depending on numbers of crabs caught on grounds. Marine Scotland staff working hours will not exceed 13 hours in a 24 hour period and appropriate rest breaks will be scheduled.

All gear will be unloaded in Stromness on Monday 15 February.

Normal contact will be maintained with the Marine Laboratory.

Contact number for the MFV *Noronya* is through the vessel's agents Orkney Fisherman's Society Tel: 01856850375.

Submitted  
*G Jones*  
22 January 2010.

Approved  
*I Gibb*  
1 February 2010.