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Charter Fishing Vessel MV *Aora*

Cruise 0407H

REPORT

14 May – 1 June 2007

Ports

Loading: 14 May, Fairlie Pier

Half Landing: 22 May Ullapool

Unloading: 30 May, Oban

Personnel

*S Davis (In charge 14-22 May)

*T Howell (In charge 22-30 May)

N Brown (14-30 May)

Fishing Gear: Scallop dredges

Costs to Project: 20 days MO1TA

Objectives

1. To carry out a survey of scallop stocks on the West of Scotland.
2. To collect information on by catches of commercial fish and shellfish species.
3. To collect biological data on scallop growth rates.
4. The survey will include hauls in the Broad Bay (Lewis) closed area.

Narrative

The scientific staff joined MV *Aora* at 1200 hours on 14 May and sailed to Campbeltown after loading. Sampling began the following day at Sanda with the survey following the sequence of dredge hauls shown in Figure 1. This covered the West of Kintyre and North West management area grounds over the following 6 days. The half landing took place on 22 May when T Howell replaced S Davis as SIC. The survey recommenced on the 23 May when *Aora* crossed the Minch and completed 6 hauls within Broad Bay. The survey of the North West management area continued over the following 6 days. Unloading took place in Oban on 30 May where the scientific staff left the vessel. Then *Aora* made passage for Millport

Results

During the trip 97 dredge hauls were made, and a total of 13404 scallops were caught. The position of each haul is shown in Figure 1. Catch rates varied from a minimum of 0.hr.m to a

maximum of 116.hr.m. The aggregate catch rates for each statistical rectangle, expressed in numbers per hour per metre width by age, are shown in Figure 2. The individual graph headings in Figure 2 show the overall catch rate for each statistical rectangle. The length frequencies in numbers caught per half centimetre length category are shown in Figure 3. The individual graph headings in Figure 3 show the percentage of scallops less than 100 mm for each statistical rectangle. Figures 2 and 3 exclude data from tows 54 to 58 which took place in Broad Bay and were not part of the scallop survey. The numbers of each by-catch species caught are given in Table 1.

T Howell
28 January 2008

Table 1

Species	Numbers
<i>Aequipecten opercularis</i>	82
<i>Aritica Islanica</i>	46
<i>Buccinum undatum</i>	143
<i>Cancer pagurus M</i>	121
<i>Cancer pagurus F</i>	215
<i>Cancer pagurus B</i>	19
<i>Scylliorhinus canicula</i>	3
<i>Hippoglossoides paeltssoides</i>	3
<i>Callionymus lyra</i>	1
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	1
<i>Aaspitrigla cuculus</i>	1
<i>Lithodes maja M</i>	2
<i>Lithodes maja F</i>	2
<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>	13
<i>Microstomus kitt</i>	4
<i>Necora puber M</i>	40
<i>Necora puber F</i>	23
<i>Necora puber B</i>	14
<i>Neptunea antiqua</i>	144
<i>Nephrops norvegicus M</i>	3
<i>Nephrops norvegicus F</i>	3
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	31
<i>Raja clavata M</i>	5
<i>Raja clavata F</i>	14
<i>Raja naevus M</i>	32
<i>Raja naevus F</i>	28
<i>Raja Batis M</i>	1
<i>Raja Batis F</i>	5
<i>Raja montagui M</i>	6
<i>Raja montagui F</i>	14
<i>Zeus faber</i>	2
<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>	2
<i>Myoxocephalus scorpius</i>	1

Figure 1 West Coast Scallop Survey 2007

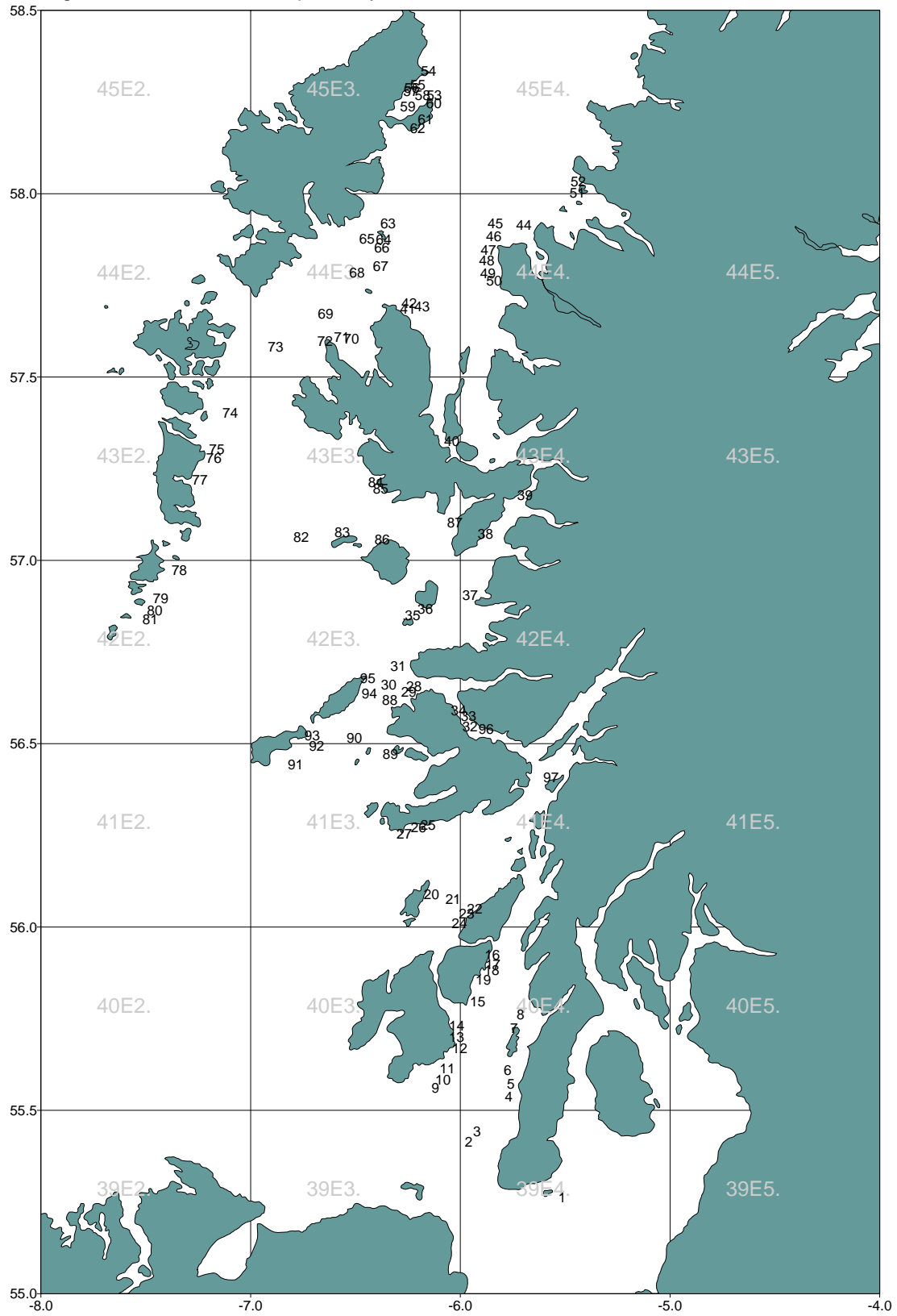


Figure 2

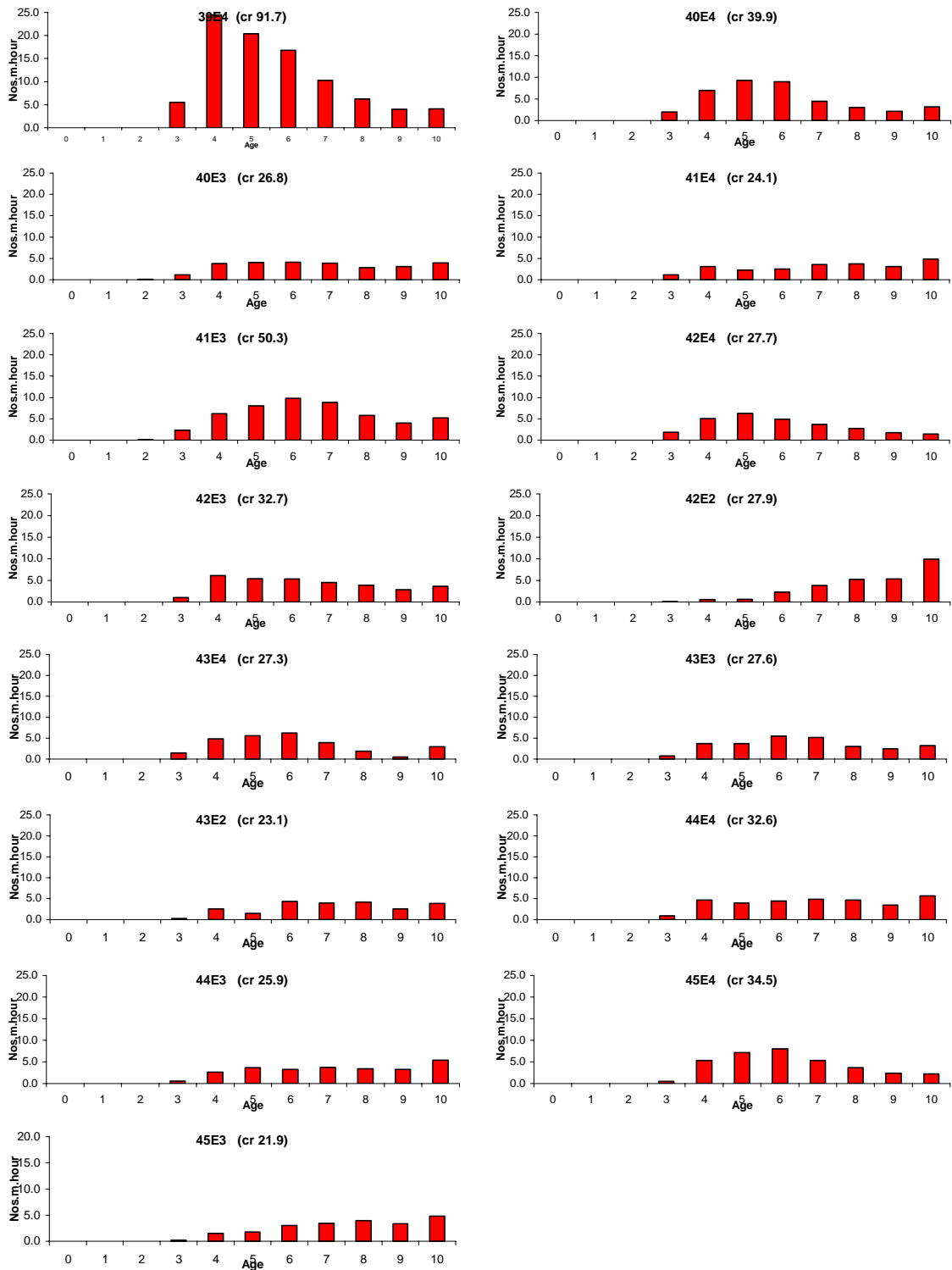


Figure 3

