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MFV *Russa Taign* K1102

Cruise 0408H

REPORT

Dates

19 May – 1 June 2008

Ports

Loading: Peterhead

Half-landing: None

Un-loading: Peterhead

Personnel

D G Reid In Charge

R Kynoch

I Penny

L Ritchie

Gear

- 2 x GOV Ground gear B;
- Vessel's own commercial gear;
- Net instrumentation; door & wing spread, headline height, net depth, symmetry/speed, door tilt and bottom contact sensor.

Objectives

1. To develop procedures for twin trawling the GOV with the vessel's own commercial whitefish trawl.
2. To collect twin trawl samples on selected tows from the IBTS surveys and from the skippers own recommended clear tows.

Out –turn Days per Project: MF0P6Q01 – 14 Days

Narrative

The scientific team joined *Russa Taign* in Peterhead at 1000 on 19 May. The remainder of the day was spent rigging the two nets in the twin trawl configuration. The vessel sailed at 0700 to commence trials with the rig off Peterhead. These continued until midday when skipper and SIC were content the gear was fishing well. Sampling tows were then started at 1200. Sample tows were carried out for 30 minutes at approximately 3.5 knots, using both gears. This pattern was continued throughout the cruise. In general, a site was chosen for each days work based on clear tow data from the IBTS or the vessel's plotter. Locations were off Peterhead, Buchan Deeps, Fair Isle, Scalloway Deeps, west of Shetland and

Copensay. All catches were worked up separately for the two nets. Target species were cod, haddock, whiting, plaice, lemon sole, saithe, hake, and anglers. The full catch of these species were measured and LF established. The nets were monitored with Scanmar for height, wing spread and water speed/symmetry. The catch was also landed in Scalloway on the evening of the 27 May.

Operations were completed at 1400 on the 31 May. The vessel then steamed to Peterhead arriving at approximately 0100 on the 1 June. Gear was offloaded on the morning of the 1st June, with staff leaving Peterhead around 1200.

Results

A total of 70 sampling tows were carried out during the survey, of which 4 were foul. A map showing the tow positions is presented in Figure 1.

Results have not been fully analysed, however, good catches were obtained for cod, haddock, whiting, plaice and lemon sole. Preliminary indications are that the two nets took similar weights of cod, haddock and lemon soles, while the commercial net had higher catches (approximately 2:1 ratio) for whiting and plaice. Good relationships between the catch bulk in the two nets were obtained for haddock, plaice and lemon sole (R^2 over 60%). Whiting showed a weak relationship, and there was no relationship for cod. It should be emphasised that these results are very preliminary, and based only on the catch weights.

The data will be analysed in depth at FRS and at present no clear conclusions can be drawn.

Full results will be prepared for FRS reports and publication.

D G Reid (SIC)
13 June 2008

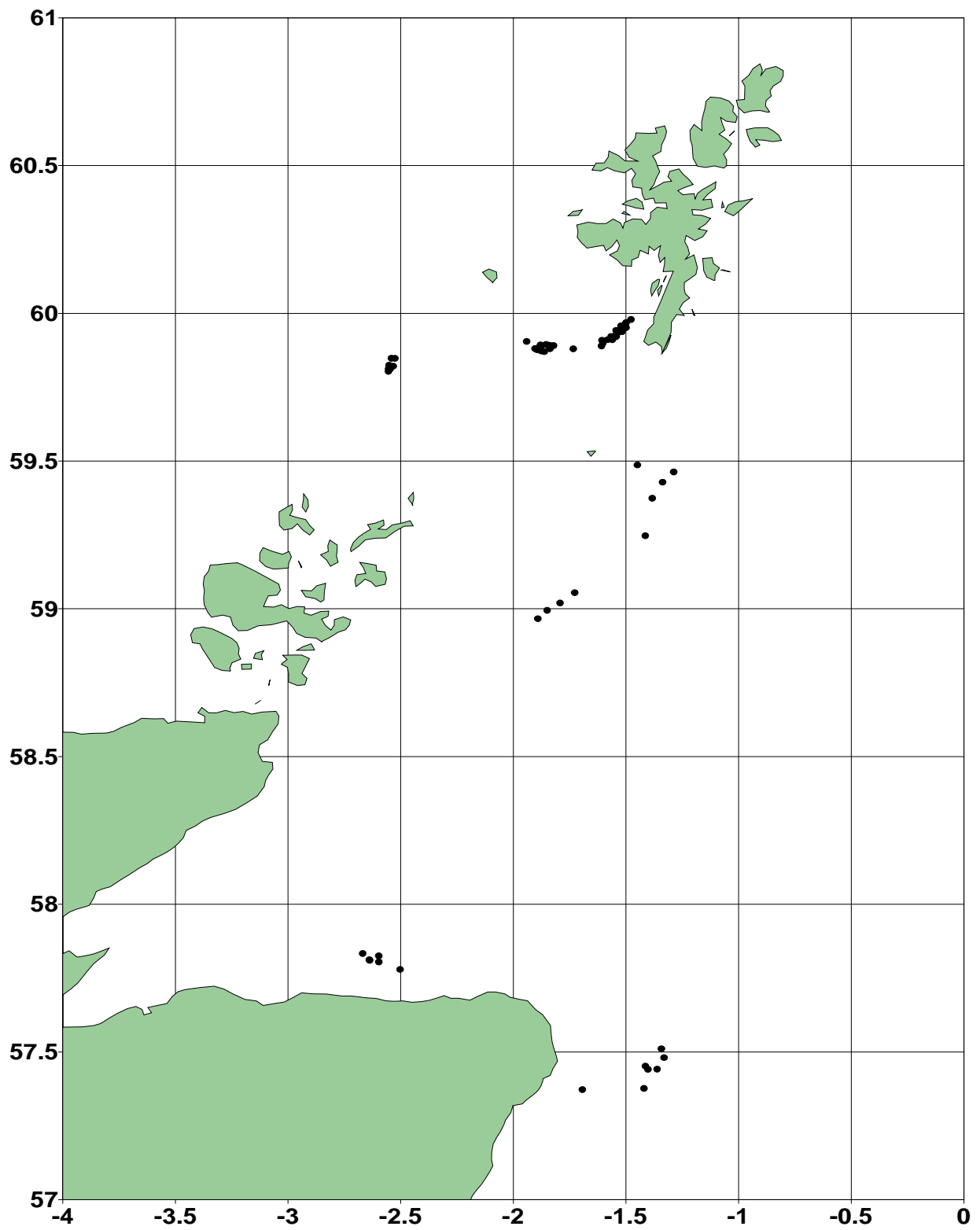


Figure 1: Tow positions for survey 0408H in May 2008.