

R1/3

Not to be cited without prior reference to the FRS Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen

FRV *Clupea*

Cruise 1103C

REPORT

2-21 July 2003

Ports

Loading: 2 July, Fraserburgh

Half-landing: 21 June, Fraserburgh

Unloading: 11 July, Fraserburgh

Personnel

| | |
|------------|-----------------------|
| T Howell | In charge, 2-11 July |
| S Davis | In charge, 11-21 July |
| R Campbell | 2-21 July |

Fishing Gear: Scallop dredges

Cost to project: 20 days, M01TA

Objectives

1. To carry out a survey of scallop stocks in the North Sea.
2. To collect information on by-catches of other commercial fish and shellfish species.
3. To collect biological data on scallop component tissue weights.
4. To collect ASP/PSP samples for analysis.

Narrative

The scientific staff joined FRV *Clupea* at 0900 hours on 2 June and sailed from Fraserburgh at 1100 hours. Sampling began East of Fraserburgh, but ceased after the first haul due to a broken hydraulic pipe. Repairs were made at Peterhead allowing sampling to resume the next day. Sampling of the East Coast grounds continued over the following 7 days. On completion of the east coast grounds the vessel moved to the Moray Firth where sampling took place until the vessel sailed to Fraserburgh for the half-landing on the evening of 10 July. A change of scientific staff took place on 11 July. The vessel returned to the Moray Firth where standard North East management area survey tows were completed. A stratified random survey of an area to the north east of Tarbat Ness, carried out in the previous North sea scallop survey, was repeated. The vessel returned to Fraserburgh at 1430 on 21 July and scientific staff returned to the laboratory with all equipment and samples.

Results

During the trip 133 dredge hauls were made and a total of 7965 scallops were caught. The position of each haul is shown in Figure 1. Catch rates varied from a minimum of 0/hrm to a maximum of 92/hrm. 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. The numbers of each by-catch species caught is given in Table 1. The location of the stratified random experiment is shown in Figure 1; the results will be reported on at a later date.

T Howell
19 May 2004

TABLE 1

| SPECIES | NUMBERS CAUGHT |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Aequipecten opercularis | 484 |
| Aspitrigla cuculus | 1 |
| Buccinum undatum | 96 |
| Cancer pagurus M | 58 |
| Cancer pagurus F | 80 |
| Hippoglossiodes platessoides | 10 |
| Homarus gammarus M | 1 |
| Limanda limanda | 25 |
| Lithodes maja M | 30 |
| Lithodes maja F | 65 |
| Lophius piscatorius | 117 |
| Melanogrammus aeglefinus | 1 |
| Microstomus kitt | 36 |
| Necora puber M | 6 |
| Necora puber F | 1 |
| Neptunea antiqua | 321 |
| Pleuronectes platessa | 67 |
| Raja brachyura F | 1 |
| Raja clavata F | 3 |
| Raja naevus M | 14 |
| Raja naevus F | 35 |
| Scyliorhinus canicula M | 1 |

Figure 1 2003 East Coast Survey

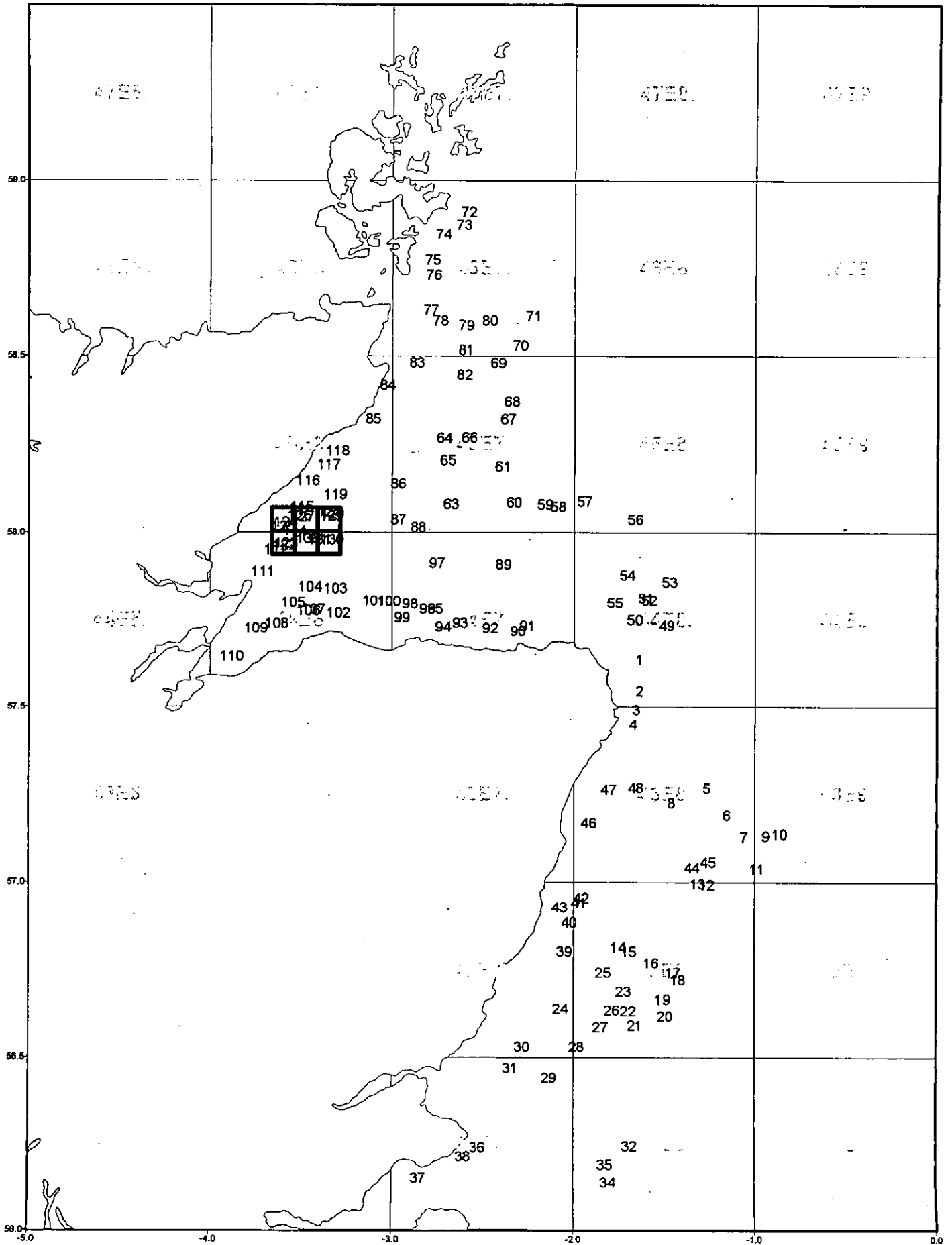


Figure 2

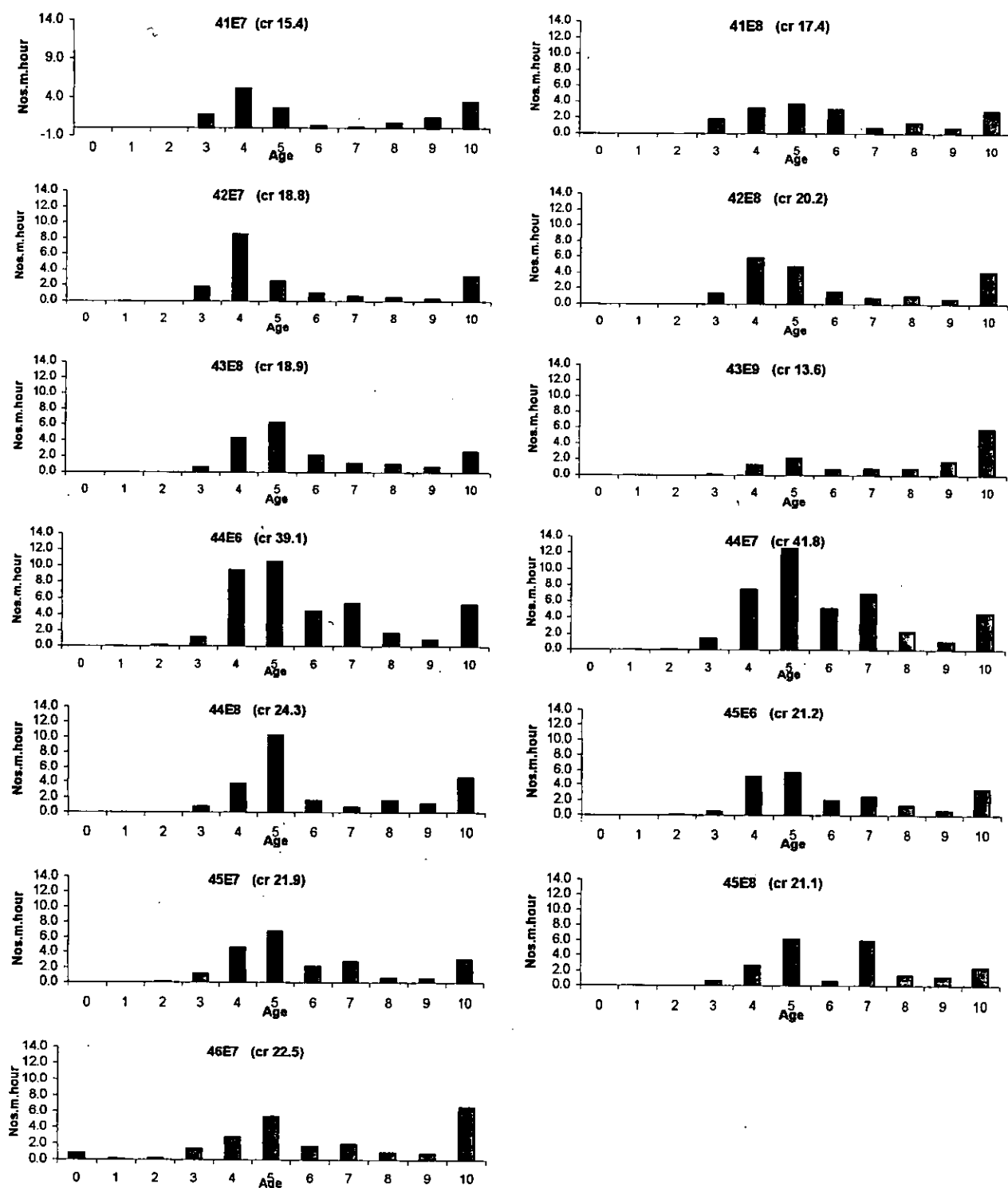


Figure 3

