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FRV *Alba na Mara*

Cruise 1109A

REPORT

1-20 July 2009

Ports

Loading: 29 June, Fraserburgh

Half Landing: 10 July, Fraserburgh

Unloading: 20 July, Fraserburgh

Personnel

S Davis SIC (1-10 July)

T Howell SIC (10-20 July)

J Turriff

Gear: Scallop dredges

Costs to Project: 20 days MF02Q

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 ring measurements.

Narrative

The scientific staff joined FRV *Alba na Mara* at 10:00 hours on 1 July and sailed from Fraserburgh just before 12:00 heading for the east coast grounds. The first station was to the east of Fraserburgh with subsequent stations following the numbered sequence shown in Figure 1. A period of calm weather allowed *Alba na Mara* lie offshore for the following three nights, eventually dropping anchor at Elie on 4 July. Sampling recommenced the following day and continued until the weather deteriorated on the afternoon of 7 July and *Alba na Mara* was obliged to make for Fraserburgh. Bad weather prevent work for the next three days so the half landing, and the changeover of SIC, took place on 10 July as scheduled. On 11 July *Alba na Mara* headed westwards, again following the numbered sequence of stations shown in Figure 1. Sampling continued without hindrance until 17 July when deteriorating weather again forced *Alba na Mara* to make for Fraserburgh. Sampling recommenced to the north east on 19 July, the last day of the cruise. Scientific staff remained aboard until the following day to supervise unloading and to attend the debrief meeting.

Results

During the trip 99 dredge hauls were made and a total of 11932 scallops were caught. The sequence and position of each haul is shown in Figure 1. Catch rates varied from a minimum of 0.hr.m to a maximum of 106.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. The numbers of each by-catch species caught is given in Table 1.

Submitted:
T Howell / S Davis
22 February 2010.

Approved:
I Gibb
26 February 2010.

Table 1

Bycatch Species	Number Caught
<i>Aequipecten opercularis</i>	552
<i>Agonus cataphractus</i>	4
<i>Aritica Islanica</i>	5
<i>Aspitrigla cuculus</i>	1
<i>Buccinum undatum</i>	110
<i>Cancer pagurus B</i>	5
<i>Cancer pagurus F</i>	71
<i>Cancer pagurus M</i>	100
<i>Eutrigla gurnardus</i>	3
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	1
<i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>	1
<i>Hippoglossoides platessoides</i>	56
<i>Homarus gammarus F</i>	2
<i>Homarus gammarus M</i>	1
<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>	1
<i>Limanda limanda</i>	18
<i>Lithodes maja M</i>	2
<i>Lithodes maja F</i>	6
<i>Lithodes maja B</i>	8
<i>Loligo</i>	1
<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>	43
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	2
<i>Microstomus kitt</i>	31
<i>Myoxocephalus scorpius</i>	7
<i>Necora puber B</i>	4
<i>Necora puber F</i>	10
<i>Necora puber M</i>	11
<i>Nephrops norvegicus M</i>	2
<i>Neptunea antiqua</i>	295
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	129
<i>Pogge</i>	3
<i>Psetta maxima</i>	1
<i>Raja montaquii F</i>	1
<i>Raja naevus F</i>	14
<i>Raja naevus M</i>	18
<i>Scyliorhinus canicula F</i>	2
<i>Solea solea</i>	1
<i>Zeus faber</i>	1

Figure 1 East Coast Scallop Survey 2009

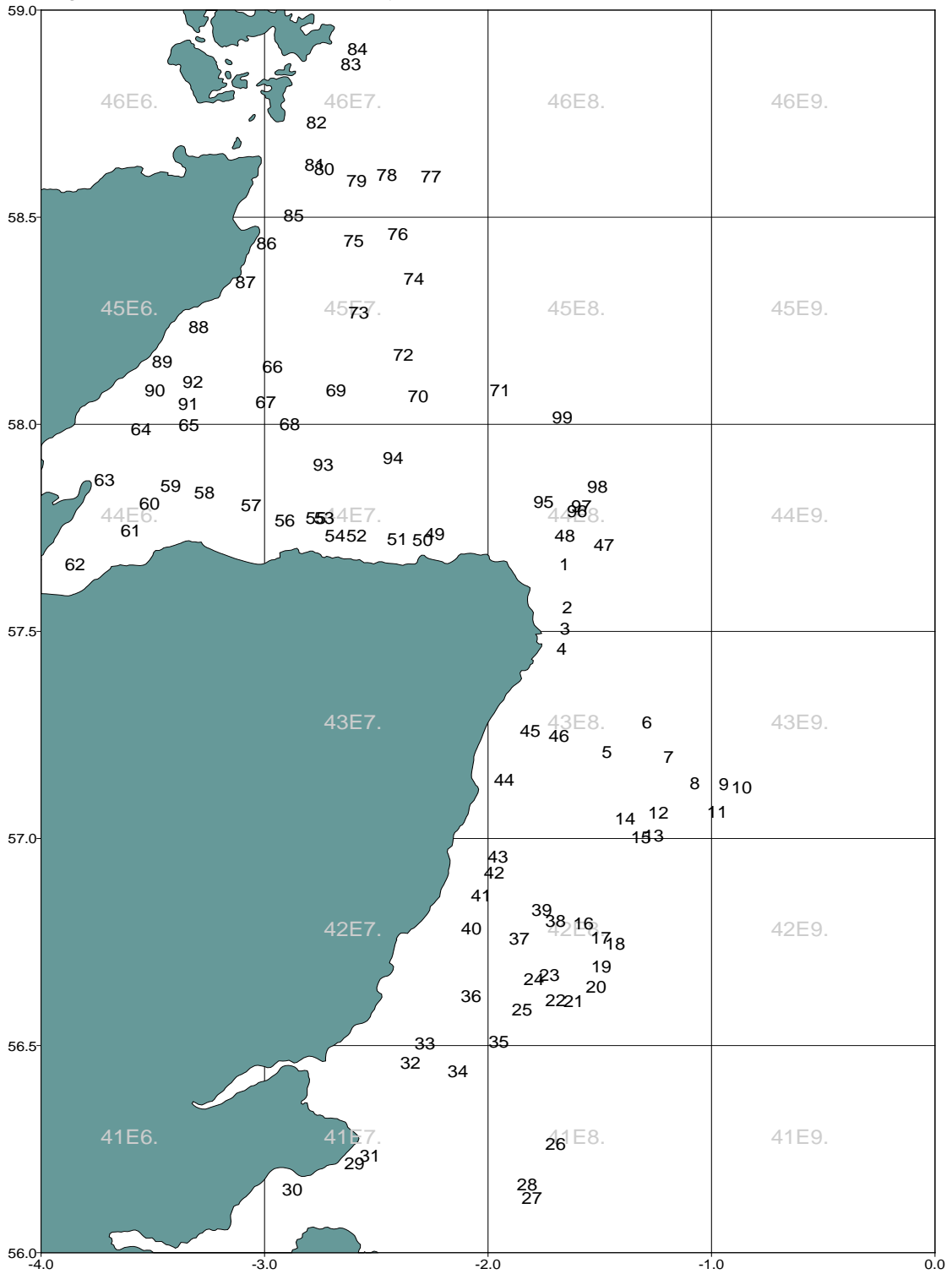


Figure 2

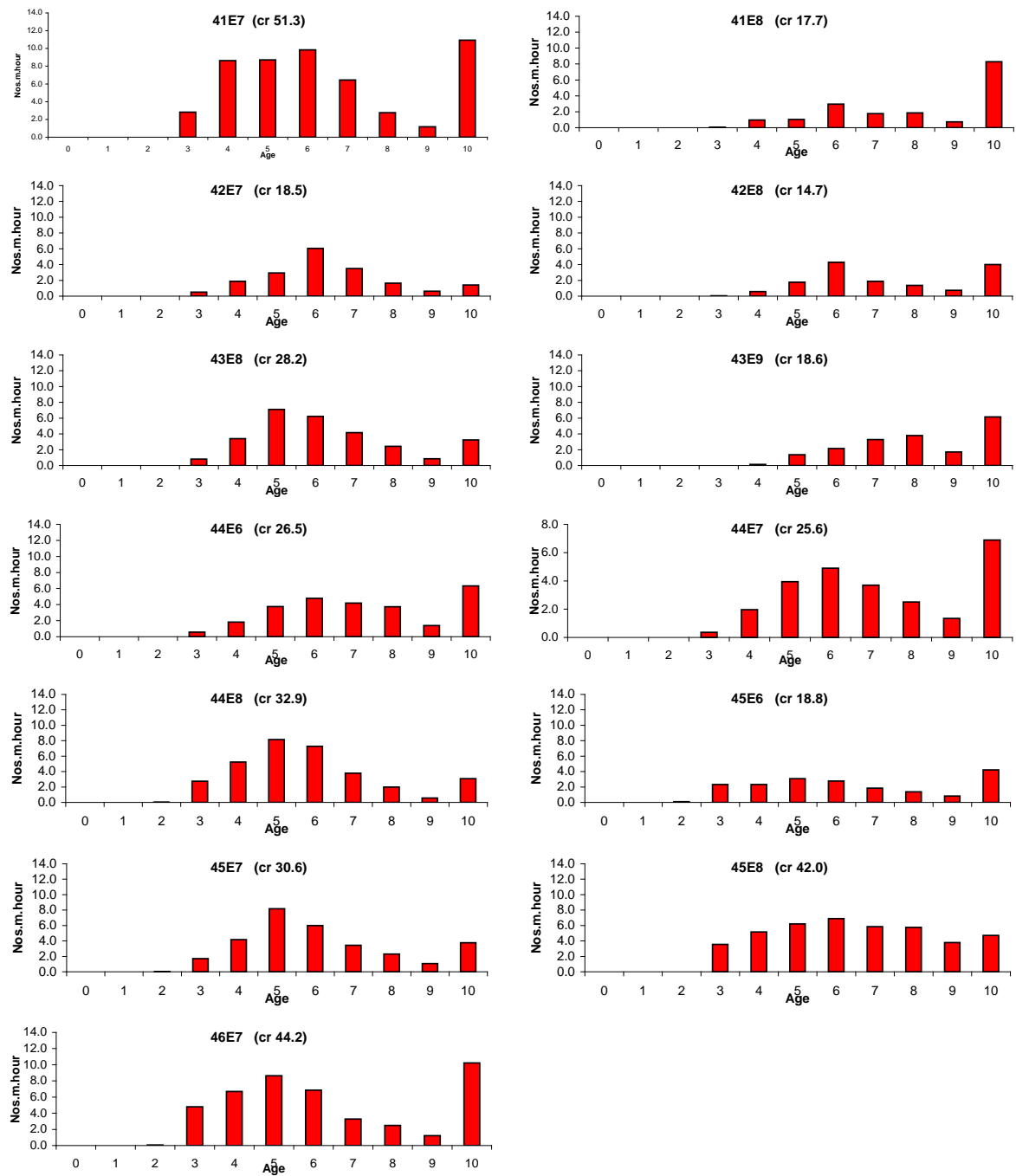


Figure 3

