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MV *Aora*

Charter Cruise 0200H

REPORT

12-30 June 2000

Personnel

T Howell (In charge)
J Donald

Objectives

1. To carry out a survey of scallop stocks on the West of Scotland.
2. To collect information on by catches of other commercial fish and shellfish species.
3. To collect biological data on scallop growth rates.

Out-Time Costs Per Project: 20 days; MF01t

Narrative

As a result of a poor weather forecast it was decided to load *Aora* at Ardrishaig and then proceed through the Crinan Canal. The scientific staff joined *Aora* at Ardrishaig at 1500 hours on 12 June and after loading *Aora* made for Crinan. Bad weather prevented work on 13 June but sampling began the following day in the Sound of Jura. The sequence of hauls throughout the survey is shown by the numbered positions in Figure 1. On the evening of 21 June *Aora* put in to Stornoway to repair a faulty hydraulic pump. The repair was made overnight and sampling resumed the following day. All the major grounds on the West coast and outer Hebrides were sampled. The scientific staff left the vessel at Largs on Thursday 29 June.

Results

During the trip 112 dredge hauls were made and a total of 12,073 scallops were caught. The position of each haul is shown on the map in Figure 1. Apart from one blank haul, catch rates, expressed in numbers per hour per metre dredge width, varied from a minimum of 6/hr/m to a maximum of 123/hr/m. The numbers of scallops per hour per metre dredge width by age are shown in Figure 2 where the individual graph headings show the aggregate catch rate for each statistical rectangle. The length frequencies in numbers caught per half centimetre length category are shown in Figure 3. The numbers of by catch commercial fish and shellfish species are shown in Table 1.

T R W Howell
6 July 2000

Table 1

Species	Numbers caught
<i>Aequipecten opercularis</i>	233
<i>Buccinum undatum</i>	172
<i>Cancer pagurus</i> M	69
<i>Cancer pagurus</i> F	198
<i>Limanda limanda</i>	3
<i>Lithodes maja</i> M	1
<i>Lithodes maja</i> F	1
<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>	27
<i>Microstomus kitt</i>	3
<i>Necora puber</i> M	6
<i>Necora puber</i> F	9
<i>Neptunea antiqua</i>	93
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	2
<i>Raja batis</i> M	1
<i>Raja batis</i> F	2
<i>Raja clavata</i> M	8
<i>Raja clavata</i> F	3
<i>Raja montagui</i> M	1
<i>Raja montagui</i> F	1
<i>Raja naevus</i> M	17
<i>Raja naevus</i> F	11
<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i> M	1
<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i> F	1
<i>Zeus faber</i>	1

Figure 1 West Coast Scallop Survey 2000

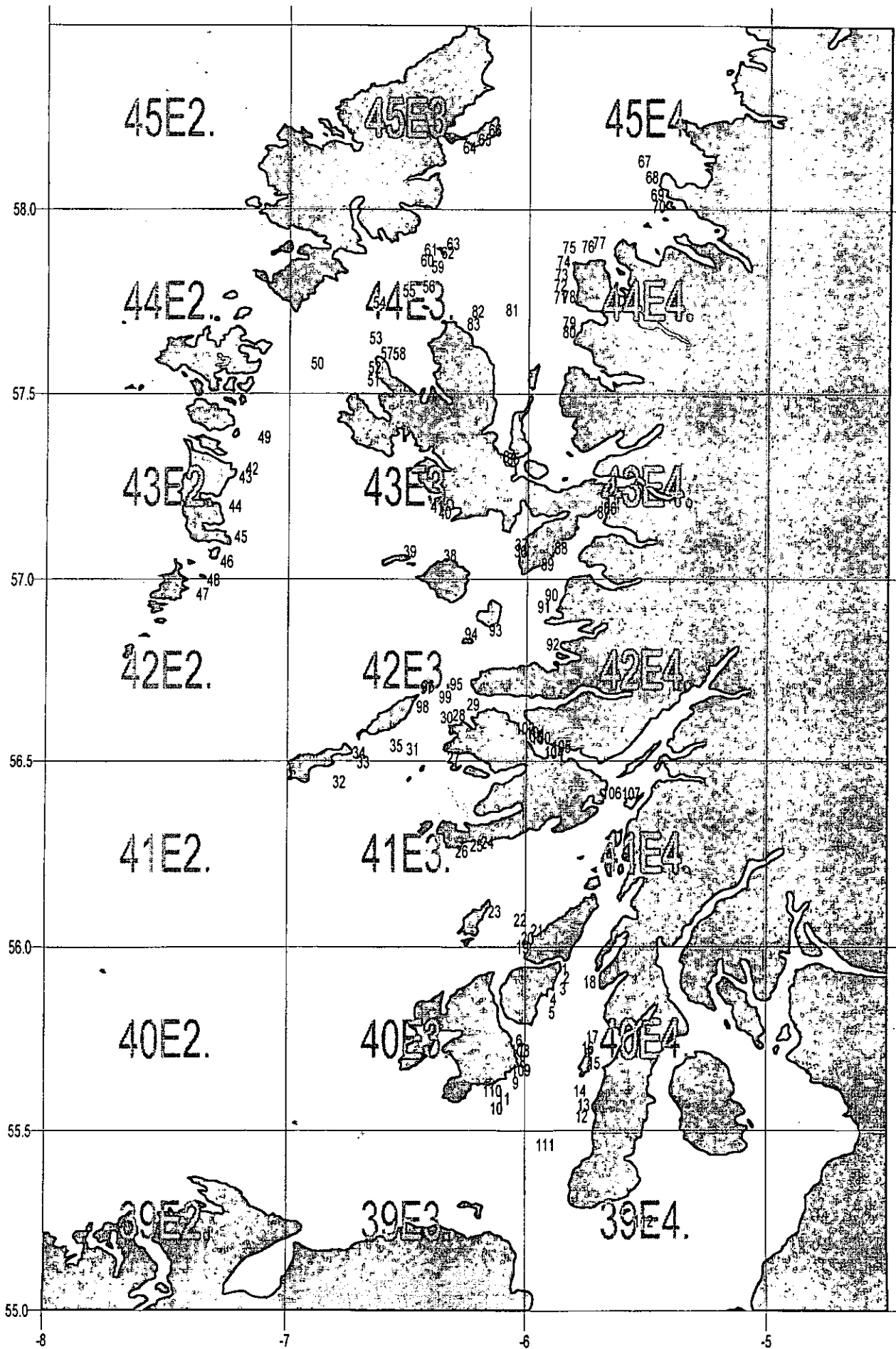


FIGURE 2

West Coast Scallop Survey 2000

Catch rate by age in stat squares

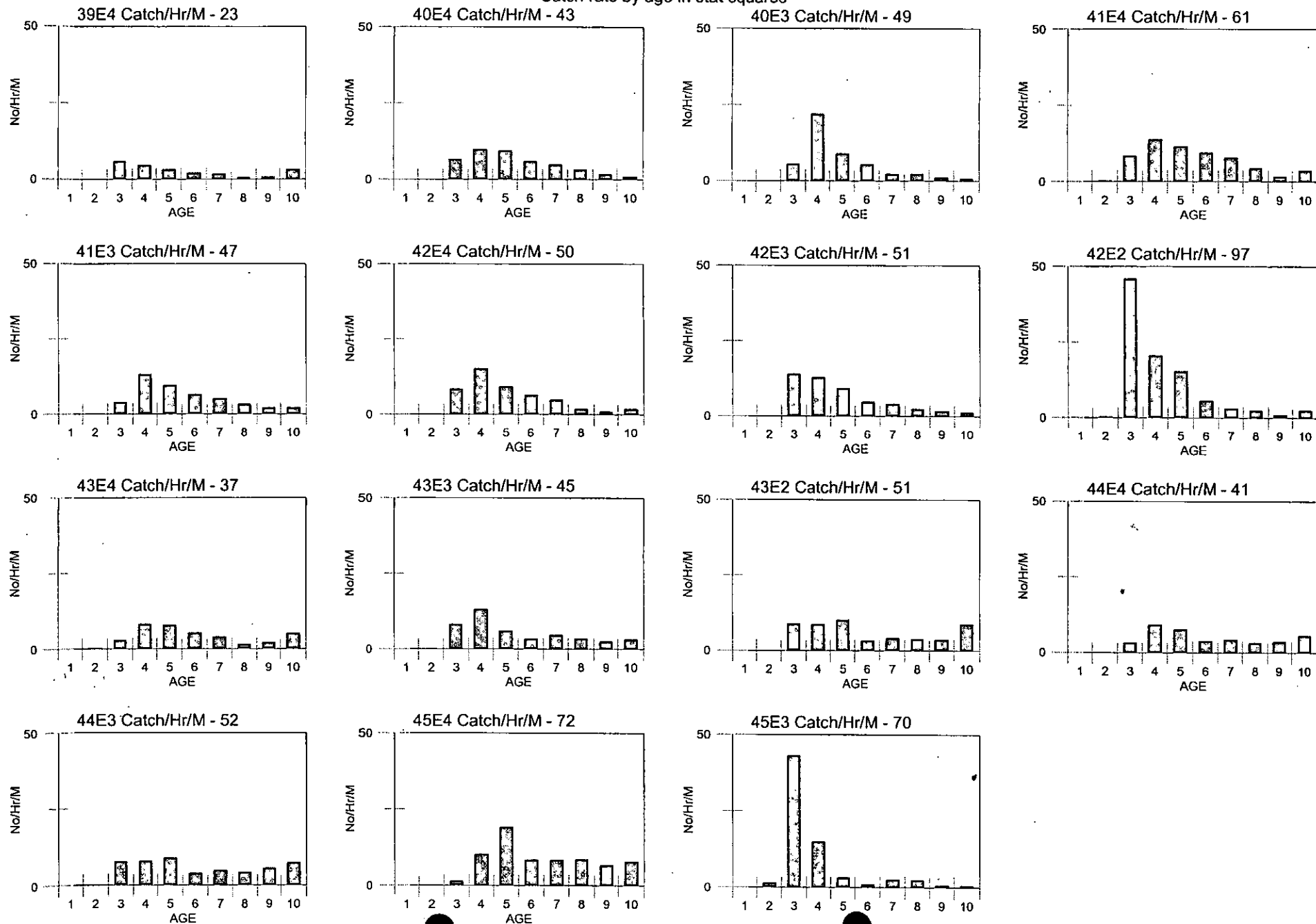


FIGURE 3

West Coast Scallop Survey 2000

Numbers at size in stat squares

