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RV *Aora*

Cruise 0201H

REPORT

9-27 July 2001

Personnel

T Howell (in charge)
B Ward (10-16 July)
A Weetman (16-21 July)
S Davis (21-26 July)

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: 19 days - MF01t

Narrative

As a result of an injury immediately prior to the cruise J Donald was replaced at short notice. After loading at Largs *Aora* steamed round the Mull of Kintyre and proceeded to Craighouse. Sampling began the following day in the Sound of Jura after which *Aora* made for Port Ellen where B Ward joined the vessel. The sequence of hauls throughout the survey is shown by the numbered positions in Figure 1. Fieldwork commitments necessitated two further changes of scientific staff: B Ward was replaced by A Weetman on 16 July and A Weetman was replaced by S Davis on 21 July. All the major grounds on the West Coast and Outer Hebrides were sampled. An experiment to test an alternative sampling strategy for scallop surveys was carried out in an area to the North West of Mull (see inset Fig. 1). During the cruise PSP and water samples were taken on behalf of the Shellfish Hygiene and Coastal Hydrobiology groups. The scientific staff left the vessel at Largs on Thursday 26 July.

Results

During the trip 122 dredge hauls were made and a total of 11,180 scallops were caught. The position of each haul is shown on the map in Figure 1. Apart from two abbreviated blank hauls catch rates, expressed in numbers per hour per metre dredge width, varied from a minimum of 2/hr/m to a maximum of 119/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 results of the experiment to the north west of Mull will be analysed later. 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 Howell
6 August 2001

Table 1

<i>Aequipecten opercularis</i>	327
<i>Buccinum undatum</i>	172
<i>Cancer pagurus</i> (M)	83
<i>Cancer pagurus</i> (F)	241
<i>Hippoglossoides platessoides</i>	1
<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>	1
<i>Lithodes maja</i> (F)	1
<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>	16
<i>Microstomus kitt</i>	3
<i>Munida rugosa</i> (M)	19
<i>Munida rugosa</i> (F)	17
<i>Necora puber</i> (M)	35
<i>Necora puber</i> (F)	28
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i> (M)	1
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i> (F)	1
<i>Neptunea antiqua</i>	103
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	3
<i>Raja batis</i> (F)	2
<i>Raja clavata</i> (M)	3
<i>Raja clavata</i> (F)	1
<i>Raja montagui</i> (M)	6
<i>Raja naevus</i> (M)	12
<i>Raja naevus</i> (F)	9
<i>Scylliorhinus canicula</i> (M)	1
<i>Solea solea</i>	1
<i>Zeus faber</i>	2

Figure 1

West Coast Scallop Survey 2001

(Inset - experimental area NW of Mull)

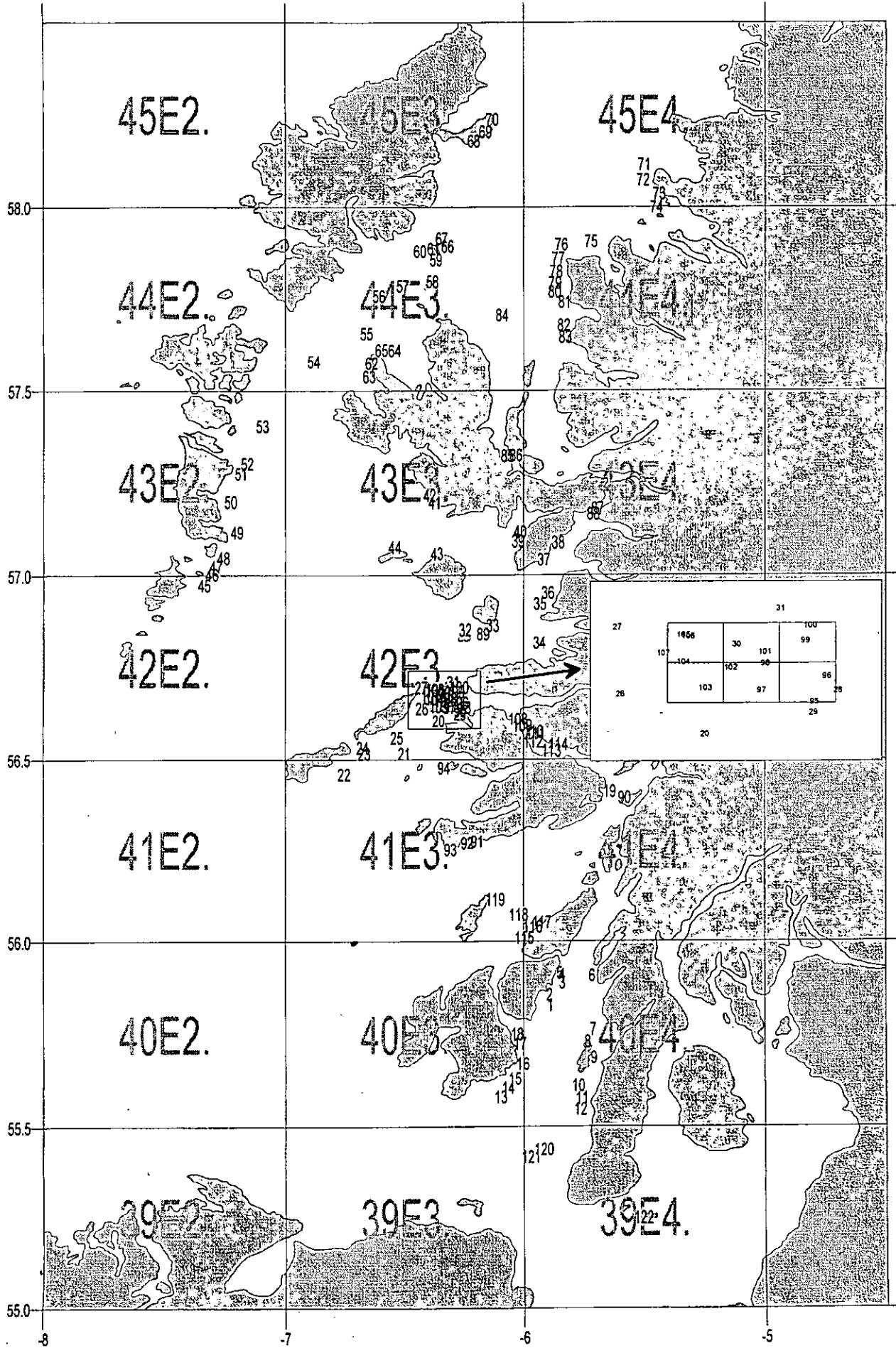


Figure 2

West Coast Scallop Survey 2001

Catch rate by age in stat squares

