

P17/8

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

MV *Aora*

Charter Cruise 0299H

REPORT

15 June - 3 July

Personnel

T Howell (In charge)

J Donald

Fishing gear: Scallop dredges.

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

The scientific staff joined MV *Aora* at Largs at 1550 hours on 14 June. After loading, *Aora* made for Campbeltown. Sampling began the following day on grounds adjacent to Sanda and continued, following the sequence shown in Figure 1. All the major grounds on the west coast and Outer Hebrides were sampled. The scientific staff left the vessel at Oban on Wednesday 30 June. *Aora* then steamed back to Millport via the Mull of Kintyre.

Results

During the trip 117 dredge hauls were made and a total of 10,373 scallops were caught. The position of each haul is shown on the map in Figure 1. Apart from one blank haul catch rates varied from a minimum of 16/hrs to a maximum of 948/hrs. The aggregate catch rates for each statistical rectangle, expressed in numbers per hour per metre dredge 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 number and length distribution of by catch commercial fish and shellfish species were recorded. The total numbers of each species caught is given in Table 1.

T Howell
8 July 1999

TABLE 1

Species	Numbers caught
<i>Buccinum undatum</i>	133
<i>Cancer pagurus</i> M	48
<i>Cancer pagurus</i> F	132
<i>Aequipecten opercularis</i>	114
<i>Eutrigla gurnardus</i>	1
<i>Lithodes maja</i> M	1
<i>Lithodes maja</i> F	2
<i>Lopius piscatorius</i>	41
<i>Microstomus kitt</i>	3
<i>Necora puber</i> M	9
<i>Necora puber</i> F	8
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i> M	3
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i> F	2
<i>Neptunea antiqua</i>	47
<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	1
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	5
<i>Raja batis</i> M	1
<i>Raja clavata</i> M	4
<i>Raja clavata</i> F	5
<i>Raja montagui</i> M	1
<i>Raja montagui</i> F	2
<i>Raja naevus</i> M	8
<i>Raja naevus</i> F	7
<i>Raja radiata</i> M	1
<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i> M	2
<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i> F	2
<i>Zeugopterus punctatus</i>	1
<i>Zeus faber</i>	1

Figure 1

West Coast Scallop Survey 1999

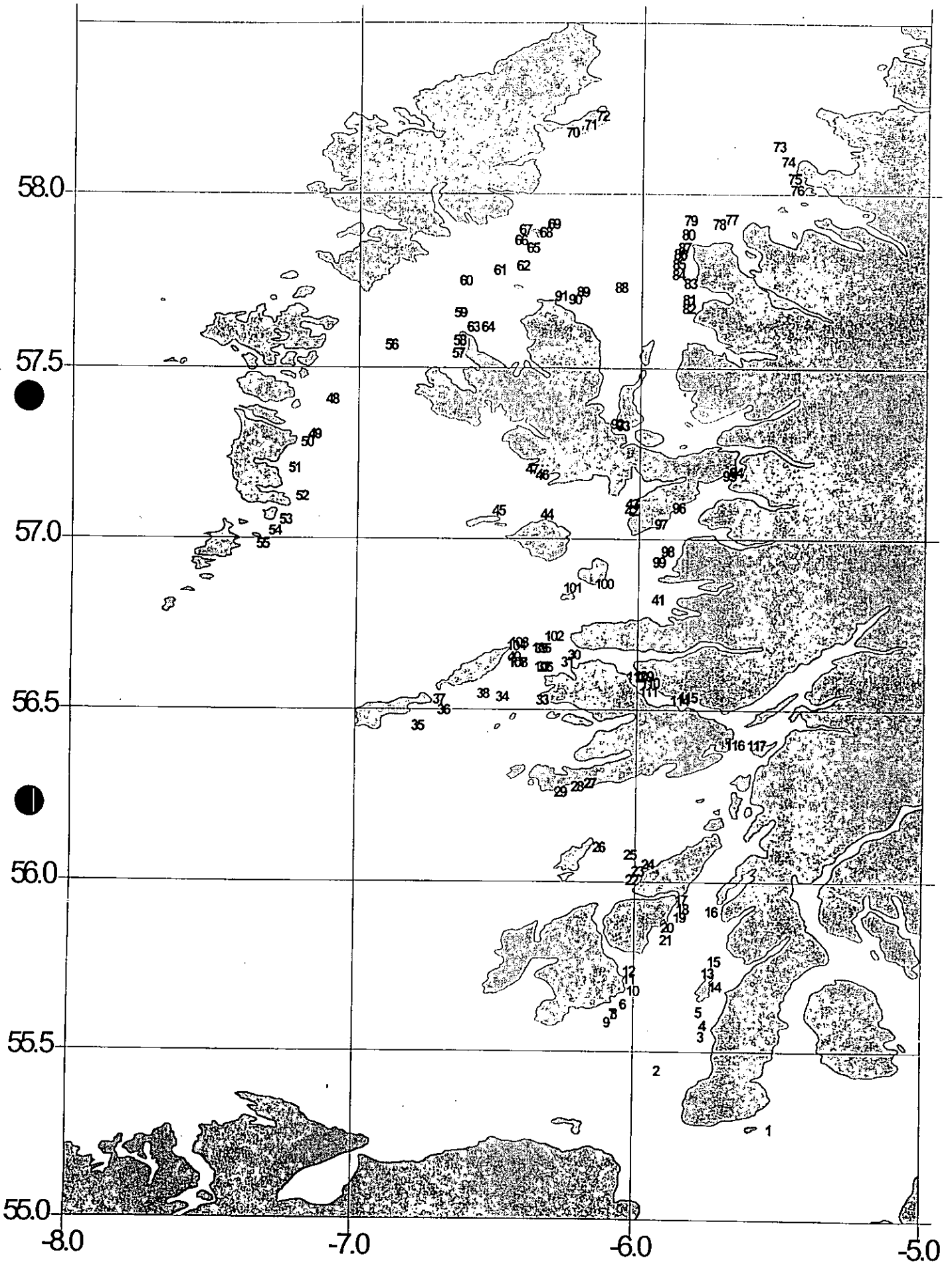


Figure 2

West Coast Scallop Survey 1999

Catch rate by age in stat squares

