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Charter Vessel MV *Aora*

Cruise 0302H

## REPORT

10-28 June 2002

### Personnel

T Howell	In charge
S Davis	(10-17 June)
J Donald	(17-28 June)

### Objectives

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

**Out-time Costs Per Project:** 20 days MF01Ta

### Narrative

After loading at Largs *Aora* steamed to Campbeltown. Sampling began at Sanda the next day following the sequence of hauls shown by the numbered positions in Figure 1 throughout the rest of the survey. J Donald replaced S Davis while *Aora* was stormbound in Mallaig on 17 June. Continuing bad weather hampered operations on the following two days allowing only seven tows in sheltered areas. To compensate for the time loss three tows normally carried out by the Eye peninsular were abandoned. Apart from this area, all the major grounds on the West Coast and Outer Hebrides were sampled. An experiment to test an alternative sampling strategy for scallop surveys, first carried out in 2001, was repeated in the area to the North West of Mull (see inset Fig. 1). During the cruise PSP samples were taken on behalf of the Shellfish Hygiene group. The scientific staff left the vessel at Oban on Thursday 26 June.

### Results

During the trip 109 dredge hauls were made and a total of 11259 scallops were caught. The position of each haul is shown on the map in Figure 1. Catch rates, expressed in numbers per hour per metre dredge width, varied from a minimum of 5 /hr/m to a maximum of 156/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  
18 November 2002

TABLE 1

<i>Acanthocardia echinata</i>	1
<i>Aequipecten opercularis</i>	352
<i>Arctica islandica</i>	2
<i>Buccinum undatum</i>	118
<i>Cancer pagurus</i> (M)	97
<i>Cancer pagurus</i> (F)	228
<i>Chlamys varia</i>	1
<i>Colus gracilis</i>	1
<i>Hippoglossoides platessoides</i>	2
<i>Homarus gammarus</i> (F)	1
<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>	24
<i>Munida rugosa</i> (F)	1
<i>Necora puber</i> (M)	23
<i>Necora puber</i> (F)	20
<i>Neptunea antiqua</i>	98
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	5
<i>Raja batis</i> (M)	2
<i>Raja clavata</i> (M)	3
<i>Raja clavata</i> (F)	4
<i>Raja montagui</i> (F)	1
<i>Raja naevus</i> (M)	19
<i>Raja naevus</i> (F)	30
<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i> (M)	1
<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i> (F)	2

Figure 1

# West Coast Scallop Survey 2002

(Inset - experimental area NW of Mull)

