

R1/3

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Charter Vessel *Aora*

Cruise 0397H

REPORT

16 June - 4 July

Personnel

T Howell	HSO
J Donald	ASO

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.

Out-time costs per project: 19 days - FBA1

Narrative

The scientific staff joined MV *Aora* at Largs at 1150 hours on 16 June. After loading *Aora* rounded the Mull of Kintyre and made for Port Ellen. Sampling began on grounds adjacent to Sanda and continued following the sequence shown in Figure 1. Although bad weather hampered operations, particularly on 22, 26 and 27 June, all the major grounds on the West coast and outer Hebrides were sampled.

Results

During the trip 103 dredge hauls were made and a total of 9,813 scallops were caught. The position of each haul is shown on the map in Figure 1. Catch rates varied considerably from a minimum of 46/hr to a maximum of 664/hr. 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 distributions of by-catch commercial fish and shellfish species were recorded. The total numbers of each species caught is given in Table 1.

T Howell
11 August 1997

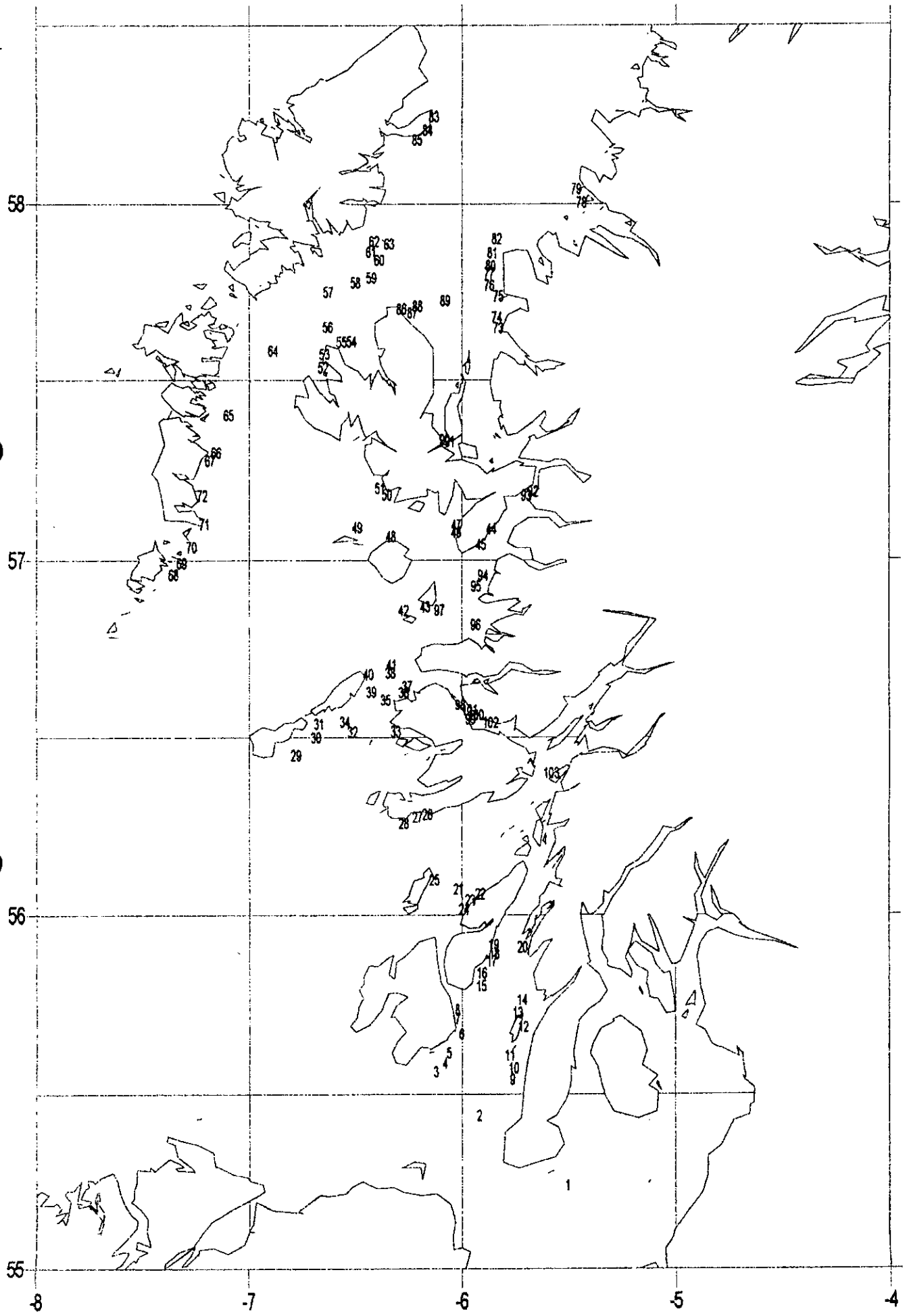
Table 1

Total number of each by-catch species

Species	Numbers
<i>Buccinum undatum</i>	120
<i>Cancer paguras M</i>	96
<i>Cancer paguras F</i>	152
<i>Chlamys opercularis</i>	320
<i>Homarus gammarus M</i>	1
<i>Lithodes maja F</i>	1
<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>	141
<i>Microstomus kitt</i>	5
<i>Necora puber M</i>	1
<i>Necora puber F</i>	6
<i>Neptunea antiqua</i>	52
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	4
<i>Raja naevus M</i>	7
<i>Raja naevus F</i>	22
<i>Raja clavata M</i>	5
<i>Raja clavata F</i>	8
<i>Raja montagui M</i>	1
<i>Raja brachyura M</i>	2
<i>Raja brachyura F</i>	2
<i>Scylliorhinus canicula M</i>	2
<i>Scylliorhinus canicula F</i>	5
<i>Zeus faber</i>	1

1997

WEST COAST SCALLOP SURVEY 1997



West Coast Scallop Survey 1997

Catch rate by age in stat squares

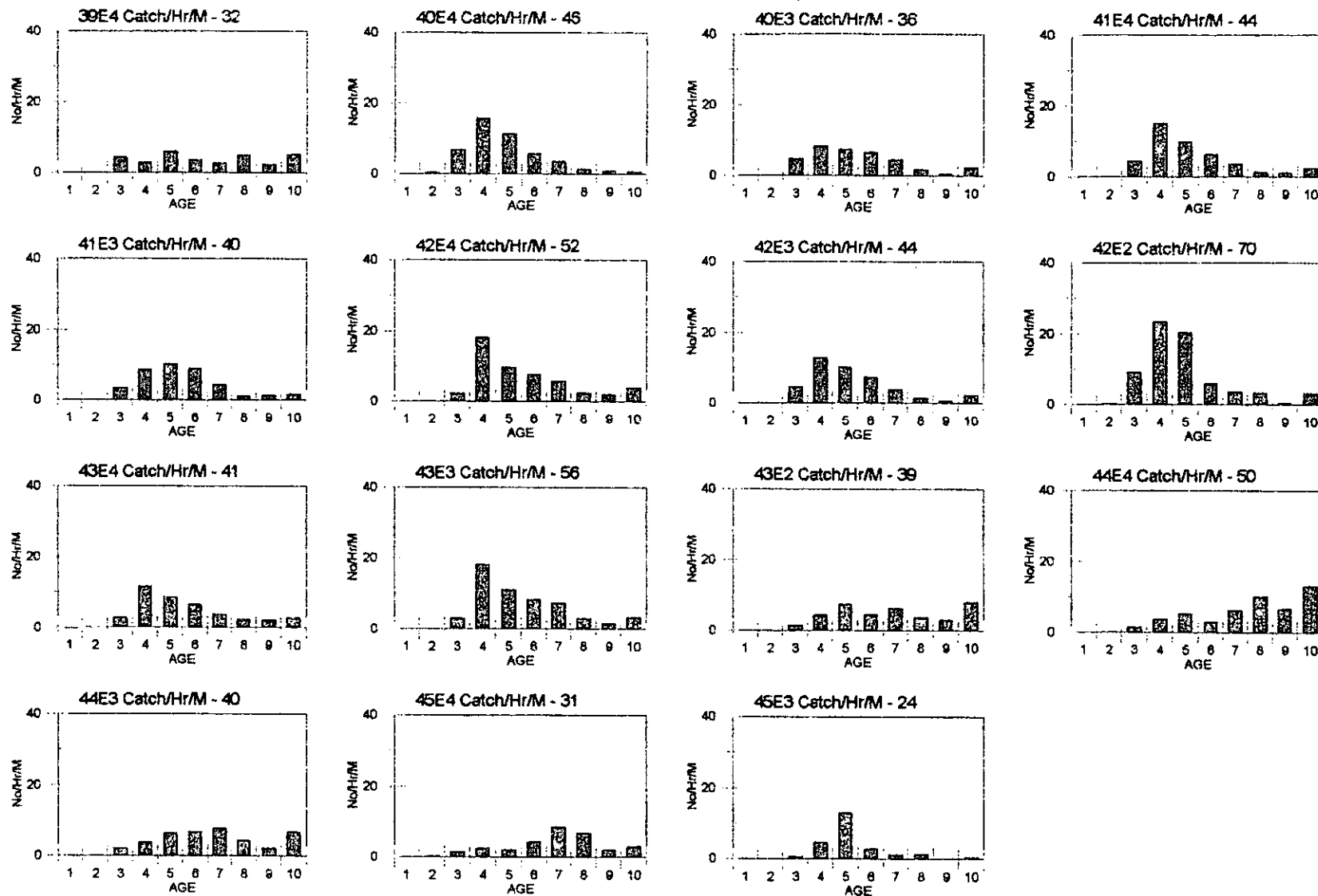


Figure 3

West Coast Scallop Survey 1997 Numbers at size in stat squares

