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MV *Aora*

Charter Cruise 2794H

REPORT

20 June - 8 July 1994

Personnel

D W McKay	SSO	25 June - 6 July
T W Howell	HSO	20-28 June
J Donald	ASO	20-24 June and 29 June - 6 July

Objective

To carry out a survey of scallop stocks on the west coast of Scotland.

Out-time Costs per project: 19 days FBAI

Narrative

The scientific staff joined MV *Aora* at Largs at 1330 hours on 20 June. Sampling began in the Sanda area on 21 June and progressed steadily northwards. Staff changeovers took place in Oban and Portree. As the vessel was simply making a passage back to the Clyde at the end on the cruise scientific staff left the vessel at Kyle of Lochalsh on the morning of 6 July.

Results

During the trip 114 scallop dredge hauls were made and a total of 12058 scallops were caught. The position of each haul is shown on the attached (Fig. 1). Catch numbers varied considerably throughout the trip from a minimum of 0/hr to a maximum of 762/hr. The mean catch/hr for each statistical rectangle is shown in Figure 2.

During the cruise the growth increments in the top shells of scallops from various sites were measured as part of a detailed study on scallop growth rates. The number and length distribution of all other commercial fish and shellfish caught during the cruise were recorded. The total numbers of each species caught is given in Table 1.

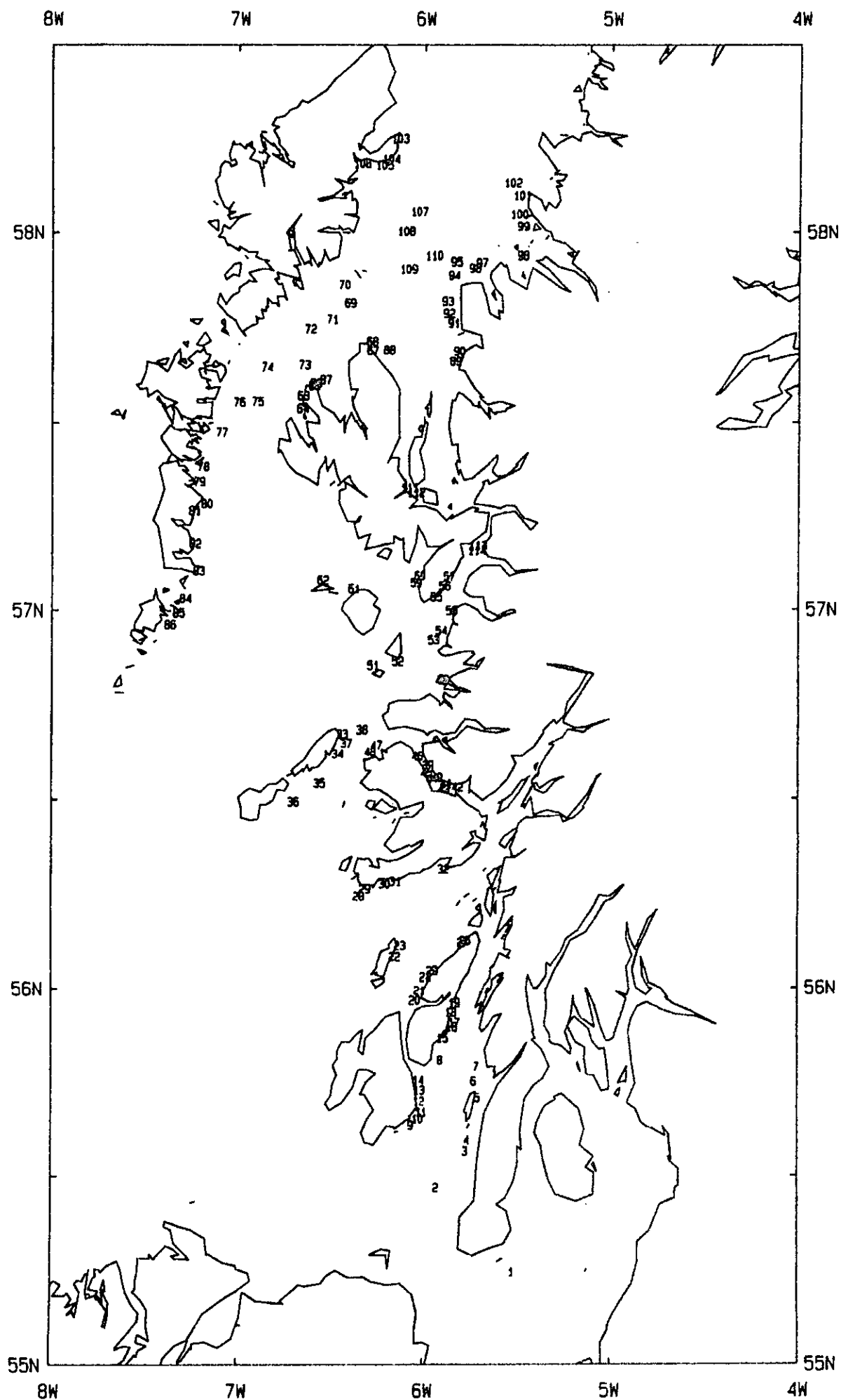
David W McKay
Trevor Howell
29 December 1994

Table 1 Total numbers of each bycatch species caught

SPECIES	NUMBERS CAUGHT
<i>Raia clavata</i>	9
<i>Raia naevis</i>	57
<i>Raia montagui</i>	11
<i>Scyliorhinus caniculus</i> M	2
<i>Scyliorhinus caniculus</i> F	5
<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>	263
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	8
<i>Limanda limanda</i>	6
<i>Microstomus kitt</i>	3
<i>Ammodytes marinus</i>	18
<i>Ammodytes lanceolatus</i>	1
<i>Chlamys opercularis</i>	835
<i>Modiolus modiolus</i>	178
<i>Cancer pagurus</i> F	85
<i>Cancer pagurus</i> M	43
<i>Macropipus puber</i>	3
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	3

FIGURE 1

HAUL POSITIONS - WEST COAST SCALLOP SURVEY 1994



0 FIGURE 2

Aora Scallop Survey 1994-Catch/stsq/hr

