

R1/3

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

*MV Cornucopia*

Charter Cruise 0596H

## REPORT

8-17 May 1996

### Personnel

S Davis        SO (in charge)  
J Donald      ASO

### Objectives

1. To carry out a survey of scallops in Shetland waters.
2. To examine growth rates of scallops using ring measurements.
3. To sample bycatch species and make morphometric measurements on whelks

**Out-turn days per project:** 10 days FBA1

### Narrative

The scientific staff joined *MV Cornucopia* at Lerwick at 0600 hours on 8 May. Sampling began south of Bressay and progressed clockwise around the islands with hauls taken at the same sites as last year as well as some new sites. The cruise finished at Lerwick at 1500 hours on 17 May.

### Results

During the trip 102 scallop dredge hauls were made and a total of 8,350 scallops were caught. The position of each haul is shown on the map in Figure 1. Catch rates varied considerably from a minimum of 0/hour to a maximum of 578/hour. The mean catch rate, age and length frequencies for the main areas are shown in Figures 2 and 3. North west of Scalloway was a new area sampled, but as there was no catch, the area is excluded from Figures 2 and 3.

During the cruise ring measurements of samples from the main areas were taken as part of a detailed study on scallop growth rates. The number and length distributions of bycatch commercial fish and shellfish species were recorded. The total numbers of each species caught is shown in Table 1.

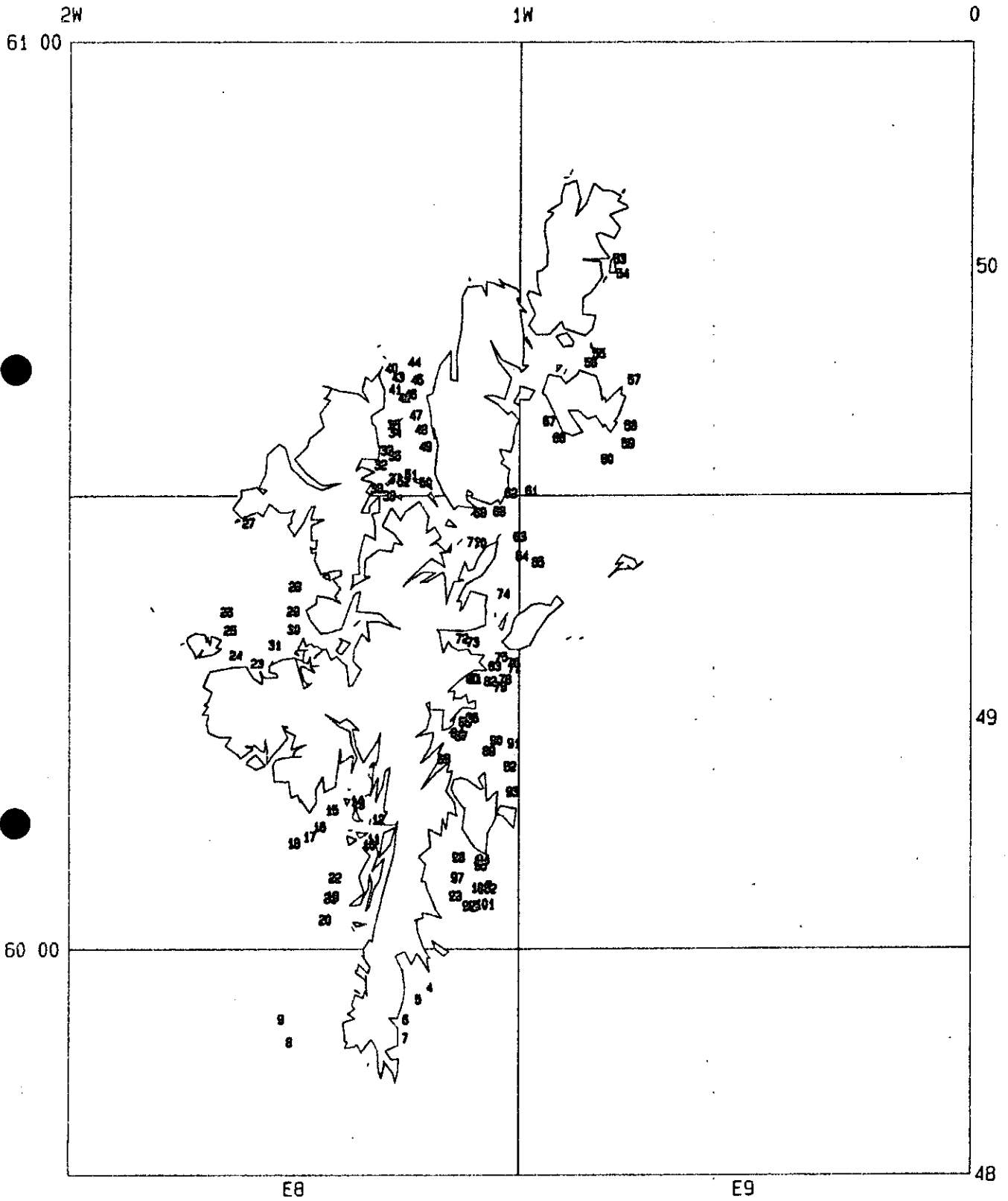
S Davis  
4 July 1996

**Table 1**

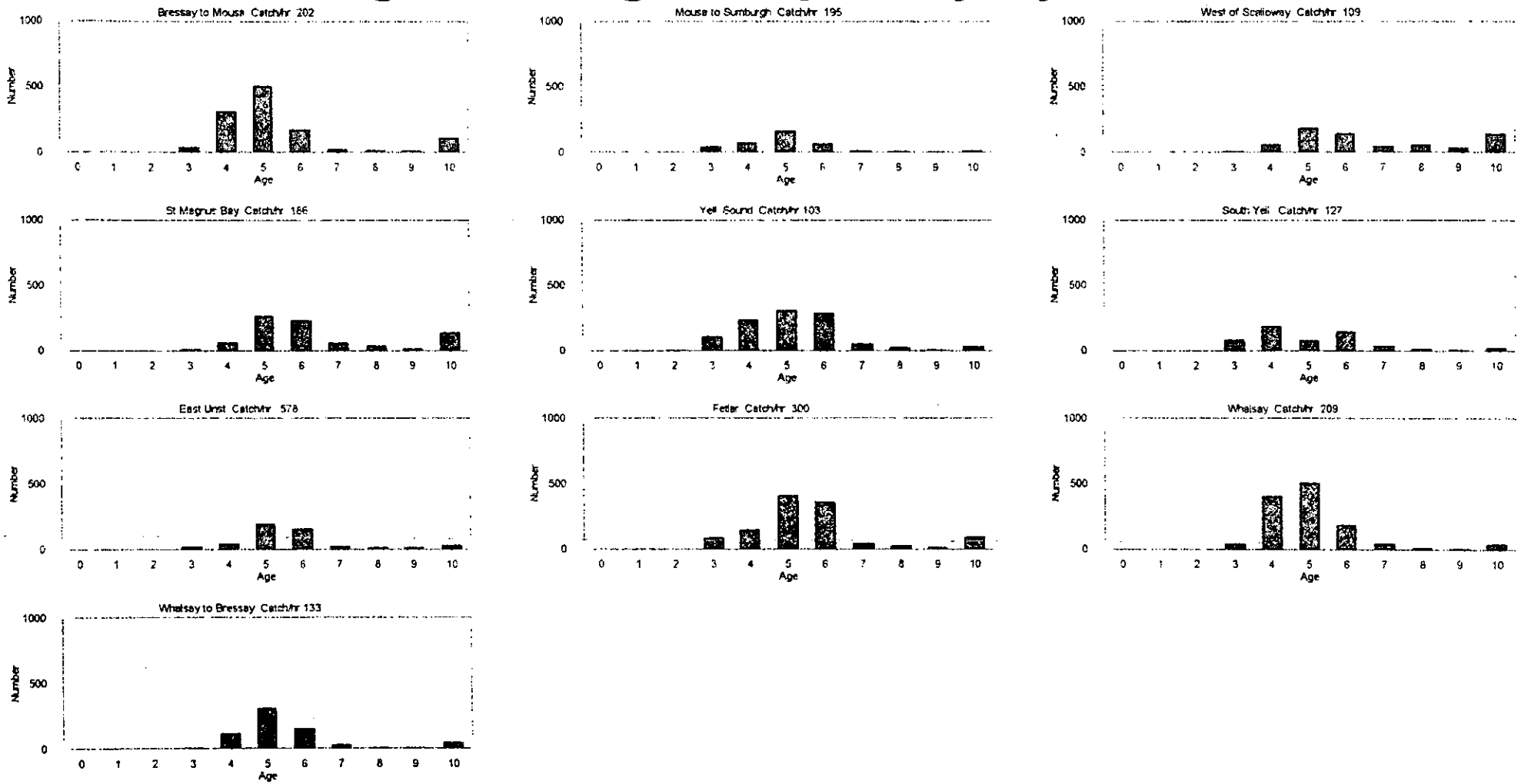
Total numbers of each by-catch species caught.

Species	Numbers caught
<i>Buccinum undatum</i>	484
<i>Cancer pagurus M</i>	87
<i>Cancer pagurus F</i>	101
<i>Chlamys opercularis</i>	549
<i>Hippoglossoides platessoides</i>	4
<i>Limanda limanda</i>	4
<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>	309
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	1
<i>Microstomus kitt</i>	5
<i>Neptunea antiqua</i>	715
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	58
<i>Raja clavata</i>	2
<i>Raja naevis</i>	59
<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i>	7

SHETLAND SCALLOP SURVEY 1996



# Figure 2. Age frequency by area



# Figure 3. Length frequency by area.

