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Charter Vessel MFV *Golden Promise*

Charter Cruise 2202H

REPORT

20-30 May 2002

West Hebrides Scallop Survey

Loading: Oban, 20 May

Unloading: Oban, 30 May

Personnel

S Davis (In charge)

J Donald

Objectives

This survey was conducted by SEERAD as part of the Fishermans' Partnership Initiative.

1. To carry out a survey of scallop stocks around the Outer Hebrides.
2. To collect information on by-catches of other commercial fish and shellfish species.
3. To collect samples for toxin analyses.

Narrative

Staff and equipment joined MFV *Golden Promise* at Oban on 20 May. The vessel sailed at 0000 hours on 21 May but due to bad weather had to spend the first two days fishing within the Minch. The vessel then steamed overnight to Rona where sampling proceeded but very poor catches were recorded due to very hard ground. The vessel continued to sample along the north coast and north Minch until evening of 25 May when the vessel made into Ullapool for stores. The vessel sailed across to Lewis on the morning of 26 May and tows were carried out at the Butt of Lewis before heading south down the west of the Hebrides. The sonar and Roxanne data indicated that the ground was too hard to attempt sampling until the vessel reached Barra where sampling recommenced. The vessel steamed to Stanton Banks overnight but again catches were poor due to the hard ground. The final two days were spent around the Dubh Artach grounds and Mull. The vessel arrived in Oban at 1700 hours on 30 May 2002, when staff and equipment were unloaded and returned to Aberdeen.

Results

During the survey 86 dredge hauls were made and a total of 22,410 scallops were caught. The map in Figure 1 illustrates where each haul was made and catch rates are depicted by a blob, with the magnitude of the catch rate at each station signified by the area of the circle. Catch rates varied from a minimum of 0/hr to a maximum of 3650/hr. The aggregate catch rates for

each area, expressed in numbers per hour per metre width at each age, are shown in Figure 2. Age structure is different between areas but many are bi-modal with peaks at ages 5 and 10+. The individual graph headings in Figure 2 show the overall catch rate for each area. The highest catch rates were found at Coll and the lowest at Stanton Bank. The length frequencies in numbers caught per half centimetre length category are shown in Figure 3. The numbers of each by-catch species caught is given in Table 1. Additional information for each area is shown in Table 2.

Sharon Davis
21 August 2002

Figure 1.

Golden Promise Scallop Charter 2002

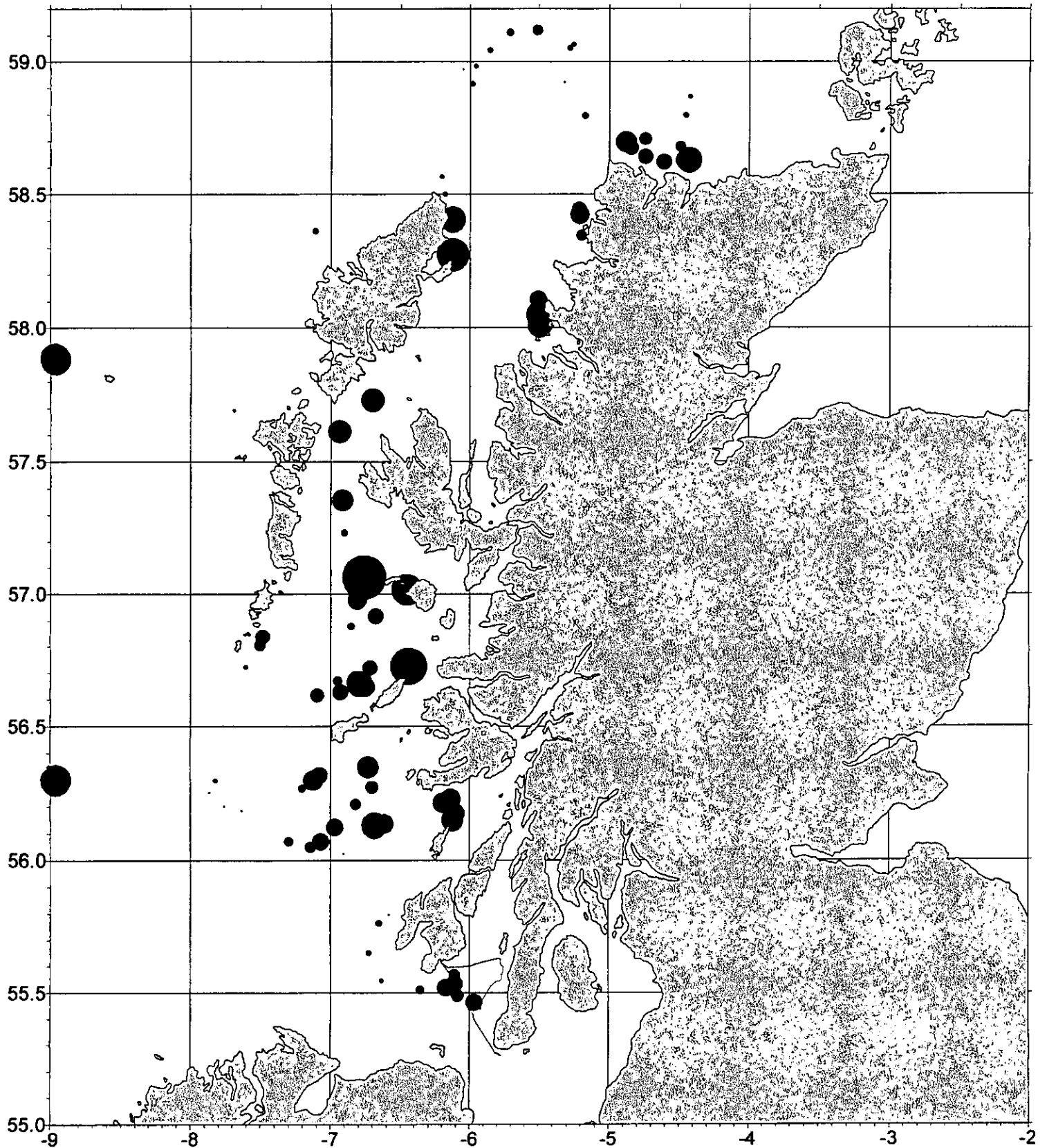


Table 1.

Total number of each by-catch species

Species	Numbers
Acanthocardia aculeata	1
Aequipecten opercularis	22
Artica islandica	1
Aspitrigla cuculus	1
Buccinum undatum	8
Cancer pagurus M	42
Cancer pagurus F	206
Glyptocephalus cynoglossus	1
Holostethus atlanticus	1
Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis	10
Limanda limanda	20
Lithodes maja M	5
Lithodes maja F	2
Lophius piscatorius	92
Merlangius merlangus	1
Microstomus kitt	7
Munida rugosa	1
Necora puber M	2
Necora puber F	3
Nephrops norvegicus M	1
Nephrops norvegicus F	1
Neptunea antiqua	5
Pleuronectes platessa	134
Psetta maxima	1
Raja batis M	2
Raja batis F	2
Raja brachyura M	10
Raja brachyura F	9
Raja clavata M	4
Raja clavata F	6
Raja montagui M	83
Raja montagui F	78
Raja naevus M	85
Raja naevus F	97
Scyliorhinus canicula M	11
Scyliorhinus canicula F	7
Solea vulgaris	3

Figure 2.

Golden Promise Charter 2002

Numbers at Age by Area

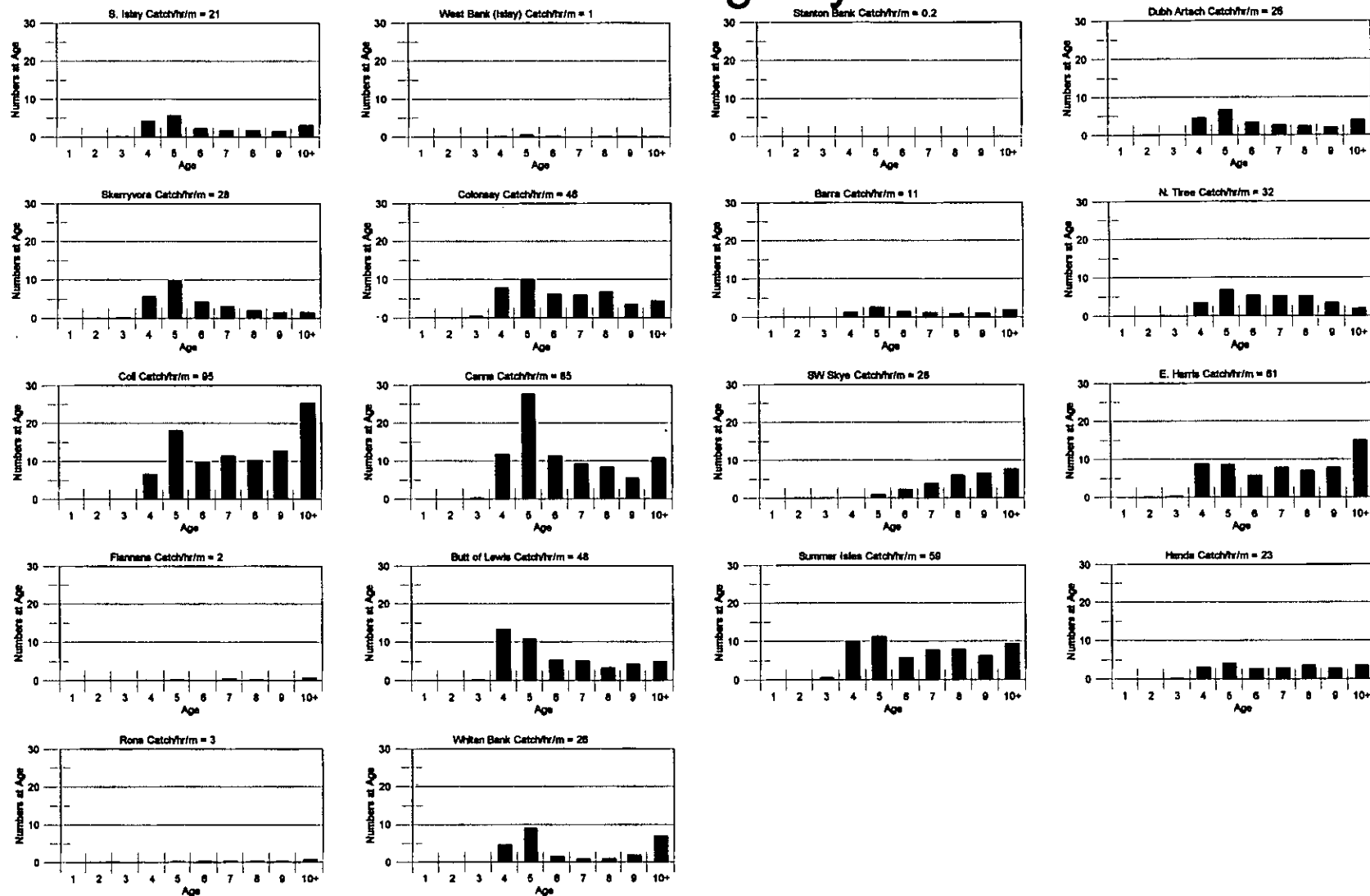


Figure 3.

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Numbers at Length by Area

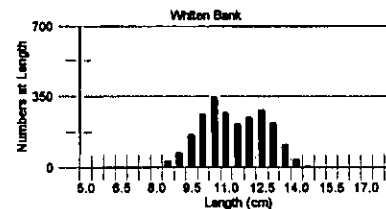
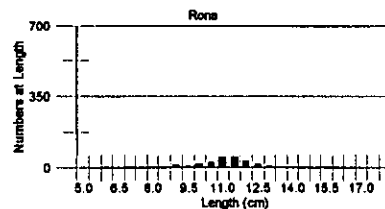
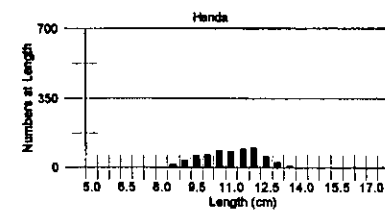
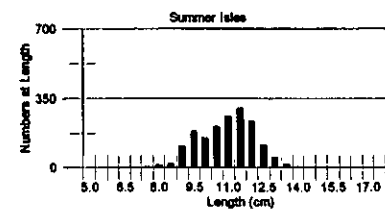
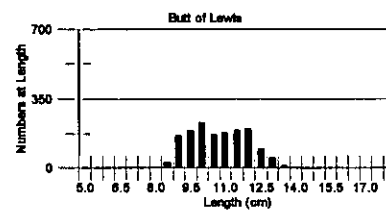
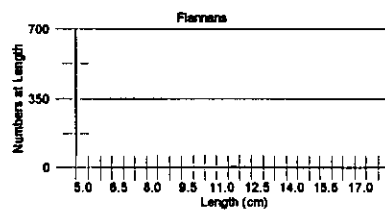
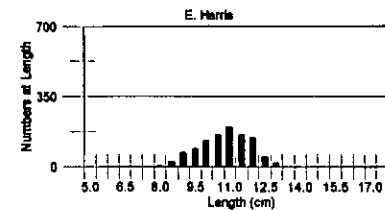
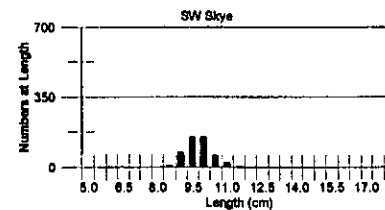
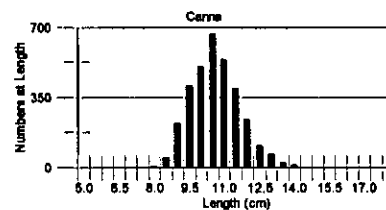
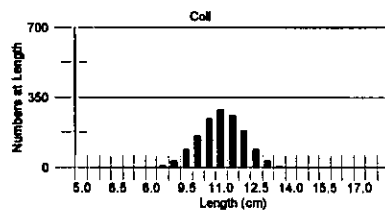
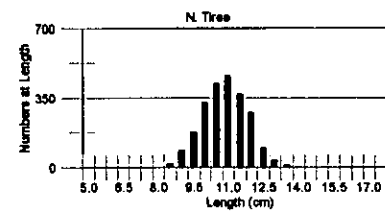
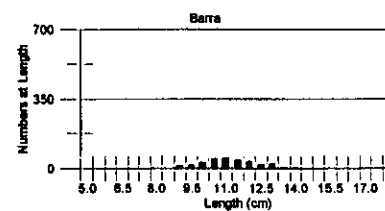
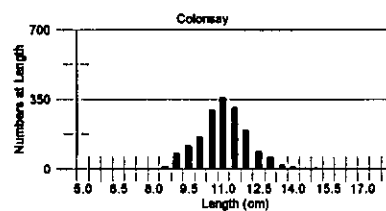
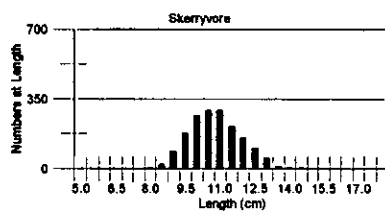
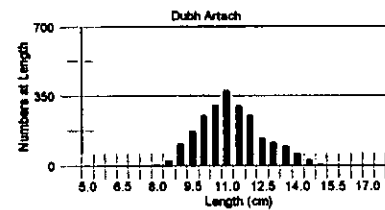
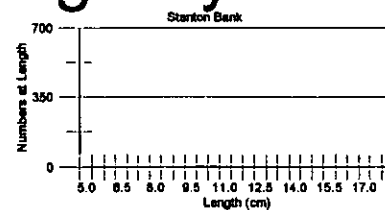
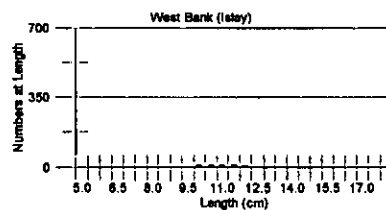
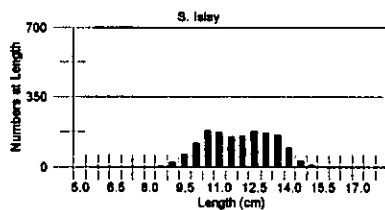


Table 2.

Area	No. of Hauls	Depth range	Catch/hour Range	Catch/hr/m Range
S. Islay	6	16-50	88-810	6-54
West Bank (Islay)	4	34-50	2-42	0-3
Stanton Bank	4	45-72	0-9	0-1
Dubh Artach	9	31-57	0-1168	0-78
Skerryvore	6	24-54	81-791	5-53
Colonsay	4	20-29	583-810	39-54
Barra	3	31-52	14-315	1-21
N. Tiree	8	22-49	99-1158	7-77
Coll	2	45-68	825-2511	55-167
Canna	5	24-48	56-3560	4-243
SW Skye	2	38-52	43-761	3-51
E. Harris	2	36-46	917-930	61-62
Flannans	1	53-53	28	2
Butt of Lewis	4	23-35	10-1906	1-127
Summer Isles	3	21-40	469-1197	31-80
Handa	3	29-42	135-566	9-38
Rona	10	36-60	0-154	0-10
Whiten Bank	10	29-48	19-1134	1-76