

P17/8

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Charter Cruise Commissioned by HIDB

MFV *HERCULES*

REPORT

1-12 May 1989

Personnel

D McKay      HSO

Objective

To survey underexploited bivalve species in the northwest Scotland area.

Narrative

Marine Laboratory personnel joined the *Hercules* at Kyle of Lochalsh on 1 May 1989 to complete the survey of the north west of Scotland area. The weather was unsuitable for working on 1 and 2 May. On 3 May *Hercules* carried out sampling in the Kyle of Lochalsh area and the opportunity was taken to send samples of the catch for marketing trials. Having completed work in the Kyle of Lochalsh area *Hercules* proceeded northwards. In view of the restrictions proposed in the discussion document on the Review of the Inshore Fisheries Regime, it was decided not to devote time to the Torridon and Gairloch area. Having stayed overnight in Loch Ewe on 4 May *Hercules* worked in Gruinard Bay on 5 May before heading for Ullapool. During the period 6-8 May *Hercules* surveyed the area between Ullapool and Kinlochbervie. On 9 May the weather was unsuitable for working and the time was spent carrying out a shore based reconnaissance of likely areas along the north coast.

On 10 May *Hercules* made passage to the north of Scotland area. On 10 and 11 May sampling was carried out in various areas of Loch Eriboll and Kyle of Durness before heading for Scrabster. Marine Laboratory personnel returned to Aberdeen on 12 May.

Results

During the cruise a total of 34 hauls were carried out. Concentrations of the target species were found in the Kyle of Lochalsh area, in Gruinard Bay, around the Summer Isle and in Loch Kirkaig. All other areas had very low numbers of the target species. The species most commonly caught were *Ensis arcuatus*, *Dosinia exoleta*, *Venerupis rhomboides* and *Venerupis pullastra*. Detailed information on catches etc will be available in a report on the results of the complete survey.

David W McKay  
28 July 1989

SAMPLING AREAS HERCULES 1-12 MAY 1989

