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MRV Alba na Mara

Survey 0623A

## **PROGRAMME**

6-15 May 2023

### **Ports:**

**Sailing:** Lochinver, 6 May 2023

**Unloading:** Fraserburgh, 15 May 2023

In setting the survey programme and specific objectives, etc. the Scientist-in-Charge needs to be aware of the restrictions on working hours and the need to build in adequate rest days and rest breaks as set out in Marine Scotland's Working Time Policy (Lab Notice 34/03). In addition, the Scientist-in-Charge must formally review the risk assessments for the survey with staff on-board before work is commenced.

In the interest of efficient data management it is now mandatory to return the Survey Report, to I Gibb and the Survey Summary Report (old ROSCOP form) to M Geldart, within four weeks of a survey ending.

**Estimated Days per Project:** 10 days, 20565 C44700

### **Equipment:**

- 1 x Seacam HD video camera
- 1 x Digital Stills camera - Kongsberg OE14-408
- 1 x Table drop frame
- 6 x LED lights and cables
- 2 x Line lasers + cables
- 2 x Armoured cable
- Axel stand for cables
- 2 x Day Grab
- Grab table
- Sieving table
- 3 x 1 mm sieves
- 2 x Stillage crate to store grab samples
- 6 x crates of TV equipment and other items

### **Objectives:**

1. Drop down video deployments at PMF sites focussing on maerl and Northern Sea fan.

**Background:**

Survey 0623A serves work carried out by NatureScot investigating the distribution and condition of benthic biotopes around Scotland and is a continuation from survey 0523A. The aim of the survey is to focus on drop down video deployments in potential PMF management areas, specifically targeting maerl and Northern Sea fan locations. The resultant data are required to underpin the management of the of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), to meet commitments prescribed by the Scottish MPA Monitoring Strategy, and to identify Priority Marine Features (PMFs) outside the Scottish MPA network.

**Narrative:**

Scientific staff will join at Lochinver between 4 and 6 May 2023. Survey work will commence on 6 May 2023.

Survey 0623A will continue the work of survey 0523A. Survey work will begin in north of Skye and remain around Skye and Wester Ross until at least 9 and 10 May 2023, to allow for refuelling in Ullapool. Work will then continue with locations chosen based on weather conditions. Additional locations for sampling suggested by Nature Scot include, the Minch, Eddrachillis bay and Loch Eriboll.

Work will terminate to give sufficient time to transit to Fraserburgh for evening of 14 May.

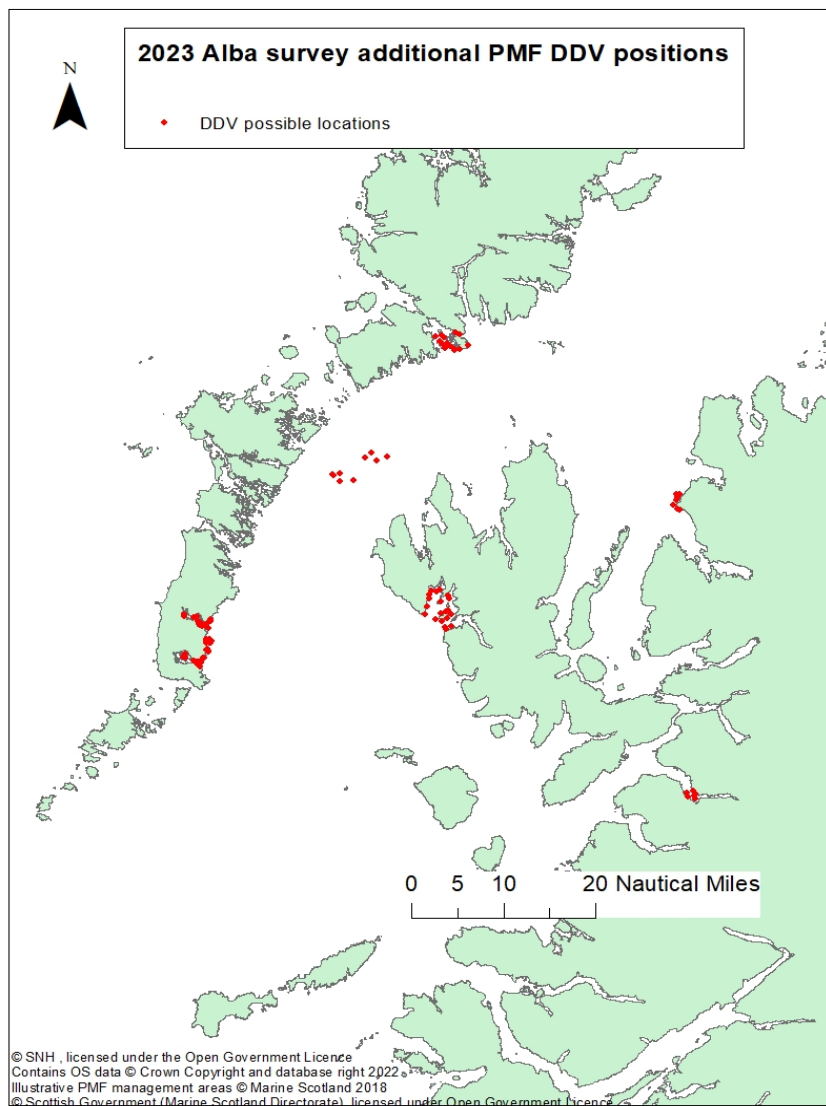
Survey operations will take place between the hours of 07:00 and 19:00 (all times BST).

Normal contact will be maintained with the Laboratory

Submitted:  
R. Langton  
06 May 2023

Approved:  
I Gibb  
11 May 2023

## Maps of the planned sampling locations



**Figure 1:** Initial areas of interest for further DDV work.