

P17/6

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

FRV *Alba na Mara*

Cruise 1609A

PROGRAMME

30 September – 16 October 2009

Ports

Loading: Fraserburgh, 24 September

Unloading: Fraserburgh, 16 October

Port Call: Oban, 8 October

In setting the cruise 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 cruise with staff on-board before work is commenced.

In the interest of efficient data management it is now mandatory to return the Cruise Report, to I Gibb and the Cruise Summary Report (old ROSCOP form) to D Lichtman, within four weeks of a cruise ending. In the case of the Cruise Summary Report a nil return is required, if appropriate.

Personnel

*C Megginson	30 September – 16 October 2009
C Shand	30 September – 16 October 2009
P Hayes	30 September – 16 October 2009
P Stainer	30 September – 8 October 2009
D Walker	30 September – 8 October 2009
G Graham	8 – 16 October 2009
R Duncan	8 – 16 October 2009

Sampling Gear

TV drop frame, TV winch and cable, 2 x day grabs and Agassiz trawl Frames and 2 Agassiz Nets, RoxAnn.

Project Code

AE02n -17 days

Objectives

1. To undertake underwater television (UTV), grab and RoxAnn surveys of the sea disposal site at Gills Bay (Thurso and Scrabster – contingencies) with a view to relocation of the site.

2. To undertake UTV and sonar surveys of the mouth of Little Loch Broom, Ullapool as part of an ongoing investigation into unlicensed dumping (undertake UTV, grab and RoxAnn surveys of the sea disposal site at Ullapool – contingency).
3. To undertake UTV and RoxAnn surveys of the sea disposal site at Beaufort's Dyke and at selected sites within the wider Beaufort's Dyke area as weather and time allows. No grabbing will be undertaken within the Beaufort's Dyke area.
4. To undertake UTV and RoxAnn surveys of sites visited in 2007 at SW Islay and Tiree for the marine wet renewable energy sector.
5. To undertake grab, UTV, Agassiz and RoxAnn surveys of the sea disposal site at Girvan, Eigg, Portnahaven and Port Ellen (some as contingencies) to assess the condition of the seabed, identify the predominant benthic epifauna species, and the distribution of man-made debris.
6. Sediment samples for Objectives 1-3 and 5 will be analysed for chemical and physical parameters.

Procedure

Scientific staff and equipment will be transported to Fraserburgh during the morning of 24 September, to load the vessel and set-up selected survey equipment. The staff will return to Aberdeen later that day. Cruise personnel will join the vessel at Fraserburgh during the morning of 30 September. The *Alba na Mara* will depart Fraserburgh as soon as possible, and proceed to Gills Bay sea disposal site to start the work programme outlined in Objectives 1-5. Weather permitting each of the proposed areas will be surveyed in sequence, moving west along the north coast and then south down the west coast to Ullapool and as far south as SW Islay. The *Alba na Mara* will head north to Oban in order to undertake the staff change, where G Graham and R Duncan will replace P Stainer and D Walker. These transfers will occur on 8 October. The *Alba na Mara* will then proceed south to Beaufort's Dyke and continue with the remaining survey work including the sea disposal site surveys before making passage back to Fraserburgh for 16 October.

Submitted:
C Megginson
15 September 2009

Approved:
I Gibb
18 September 2009