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Not to be cited without prior reference to the Laboratory

MV "BRITISH VIKING"

Report

7-22 October 1987

Personnel

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| D W McKay    | HSO      |
| J A Gauld    | HSO      |
| J R Hutcheon | SO       |
| L Cargill    | ASO      |
| R Dickson    | Storeman |

Objectives

1. To carry out herring larvae sampling off the northwest coast of Scotland.
2. To collect samples for radio caesium monitoring.

Narrative

MV "British Viking" sailed from Aberdeen at 1100 on 7 October and headed for the Pentland Firth. Because of strong NW winds no sampling was possible on 8 and "British Viking" headed for the South Minch, where it was hoped to find more sheltered waters. Sampling began at 0830 on 9 October to the north of Skye. After some initial problems with the depth monitoring equipment, sampling continued until 1600 on 16 October when the first survey was complete. Sampling on the second survey began off the Butt of Lewis at 2200 on 16 October. Due to deteriorating weather conditions no sampling was possible between 1000 on 17 October and 1100 on 19 October. Sampling continued with a short interruption due to a breakdown of the powerpack on the plankton sampling winch until 1900 on 21 October when "British Viking" headed for Aberdeen docking at 1500 on 22 October.

Results

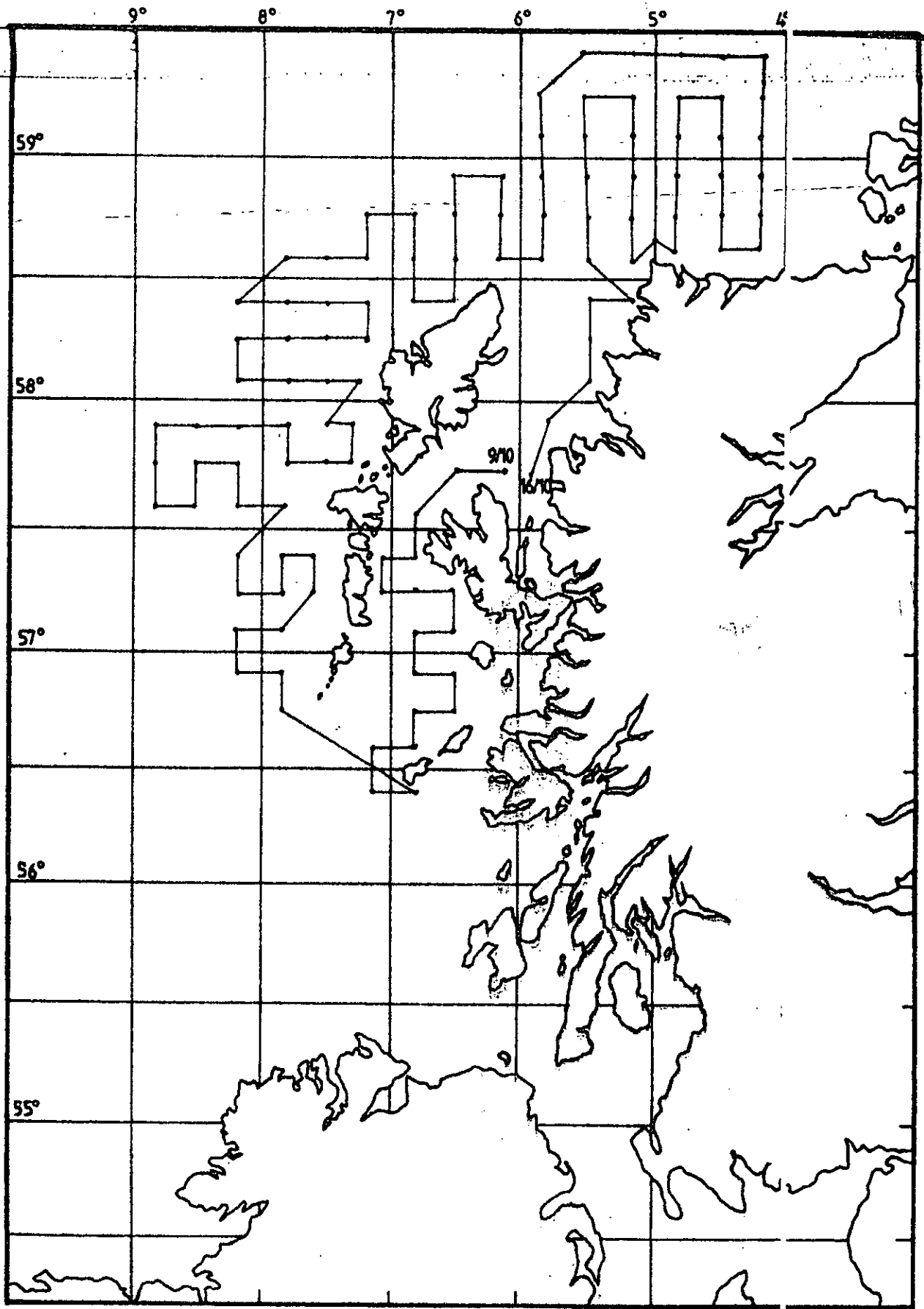
During the cruise a total of 156 hauls were made with the Dutch Gulf III sampler and 7 hauls were made to calibrate the flowmeters used during the surveys. Throughout the cruise only one haul was made which had no herring larvae. On the first survey herring larvae were widely distributed at densities of over 100 larvae per haul over much of the area to the west of the Hebrides. In addition a second patch of larvae was found off the north coast. The peak density of 556 larvae per haul was found to the west of North Uist.

On the second survey larvae were much less abundant with the peak density being found off North Uist and Harris.

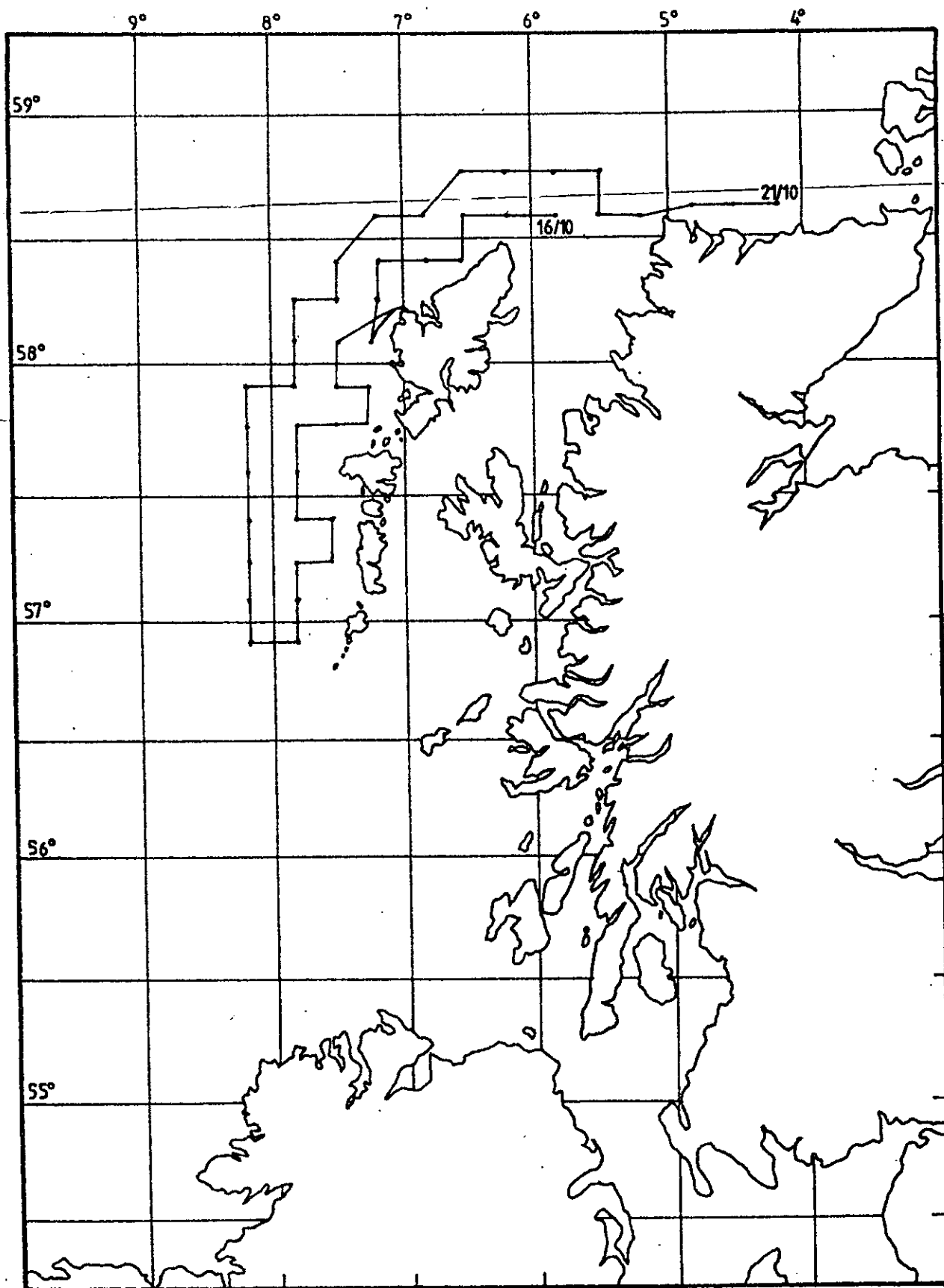
Water samples for radio caesium monitoring were collected off Cape Wrath and continuous observations were made of the surface temperature and salinity.

David W McKay

17 November 1987



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