

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD  
FISHERIES LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND

1978 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CLIONE: CRUISE 7

(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF

Part A: J A Durance (NIC)  
M E Davies  
P R Robinson

Part B: T J Hulme (NIC)  
C N Humphreys  
A M Watson  
Mrs M Boon  
Mrs S Carter (Burnham)  
P Large (Hull)

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1000 h 8 May  
Arrived Lowestoft 0830 h 25 May  
All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY

North Sea

AIMS

1. To service JONSIS, TYNE, TEES and SFURN current meter stations (Part A).
2. To collect 25 l seawater samples from each JONSIS station (Part A).
3. To determine the distribution of pre-recruit gadoids in the west central North Sea (Part B).
4. To tag pre-recruit cod.

NARRATIVE

Part A

CLIONE sailed from Lowestoft on the morning tide of 8 May and set course for the SFURN current meter station. On recovery the rig was found to be in poor condition, the light was loose and the ground wire was badly chafed. All equipment was recovered and laying of the replacement rig was completed by 1905 h. Overnight the vessel steamed north to the TYNE station which was recovered and relaid the following morning. A new rig for the TEES station was laid by 1100h and JONSIS 1 was recovered and relaid by 1720 h without incident. Recovery of the JONSIS 2 rig commenced at 0640 h 10 May and the station was relaid by 0745 h when the vessel set course for Grimsby docking at 1758 h.

Part B

The scientific staff were exchanged at Grimsby during the evening of 10 May and CLIONE sailed from there at 0700 h 11 May to start the trawl survey. It was decided to leave the three southern inshore stations until last because of the high risk of damaging or losing the gear, so fishing

began at the Outer Dowsing with the idea of completing the grid of stations west of 3° east before attempting the twelve offshore stations. However, the weather was so settled that with 13 stations completed a change of plans was made and during 14-17 May, all the stations between 3° and 5° east were completed without a hitch.

The survey was temporarily broken off on 18 May when CLIONE took part in the search for the crew of the trawler ST LUKE. Mr Lee, the fishing skipper, picked up the first May-Day call at approximately 0323 h and CLIONE immediately steamed to the position given but found nothing. Shortly afterwards at around 0700 h CLIONE was requested to co-ordinate the search operation. At one time Capt. French had some 14 vessels under his control and was assisted by 25 Danish fishing vessels, 2 aeroplanes, a helicopter and an unknown number of fishing vessels. By 1030h the rescue was completed with CLIONE alongside the oil rig supply ship GULF FLEET 11 which had taken the crew of the ST LUKE on board.

The survey was continued in the afternoon of 18 May and morning of 19 May before CLIONE called in at Sunderland for stores and water. The remaining northern stations were completed during 20-21 May and CLIONE steamed south overnight to fish the last three inshore stations, completing the whole trawl survey during the evening of 22 May.

There were two areas in the survey where pre-recruit cod had been found to be abundant and tagging was attempted in both of them. All of 23 May was spent in Baymans Hole, where 0 and I group cod were tagged. After an overnight steam tagging was attempted in Skate Hole, but increasing north westerly winds restricted the fishing to one haul and at 1530 h CLIONE sailed for Lowestoft and docked at 0830 h 25 May.

## RESULTS

1. The current meter stations were successfully retrieved and re-laid.
2. Samples of seawater were collected at each JONSIS station.
3. The trawl survey was completed. A total of 39 thirty minute hauls was made with the Bris Prawn trawl, rigged with a shrimp net blinder, in the 37 I.C.E.S. rectangles at the positions shown on the attached track chart. All the fish caught were sorted, weighed and counted. Cod, haddock and whiting were measured at each station and otolith samples were taken in specified areas. The distribution of the total numbers of pre-recruit cod, haddock and whiting per standard tow are shown on the attached charts. Cod were distributed thinly across the whole of the area surveyed with two concentrations in Bayman's Hole and Skate Hole, where the fish had mean lengths of 18.9cm and 22.1 cm respectively. Haddock were only found in any numbers on the northern edge of the area with concentrations on the Berwick Bank and the Outer Rough area. Whiting were found everywhere, mostly inshore between the Berwick Bank and Flamborough Head with a very high concentration in Skate Hole.
4. Before the tagging commenced the shrimp net liner was removed from the trawl with the idea of reducing the numbers of small whiting, but it made little difference. A total of 9 hauls were made in Bayman's Hole from which 219 cod were tagged, 128 fish  $\leq$  29 cm and 91 fish  $>$  30 cm. Bad weather restricted fishing in Skate Hole to one tow but 37 cod were tagged, 25 fish  $\leq$  29 cm and 12 fish  $>$  30 cm.
5. Miscellaneous: T J Hulme would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the calm, efficient and very professional way that Capt. French took on and carried out the demanding task of co-ordinating the successful search and rescue operation for the crew of the blown-up trawler ST LUKE. The whole operation was carried out with smooth precision and

Capt. French fully deserved all the thanks and praise that he received for his part in the rescue. This was a job extremely well done and a great credit to all the officers and crew of RV CLIONE.

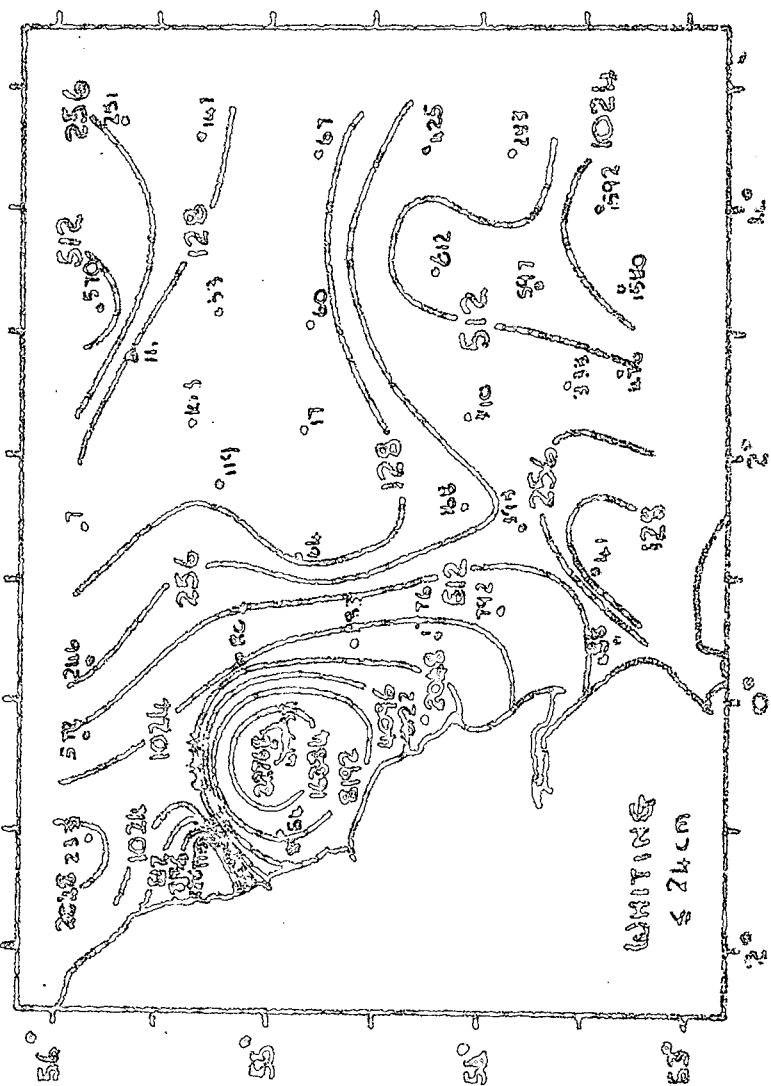
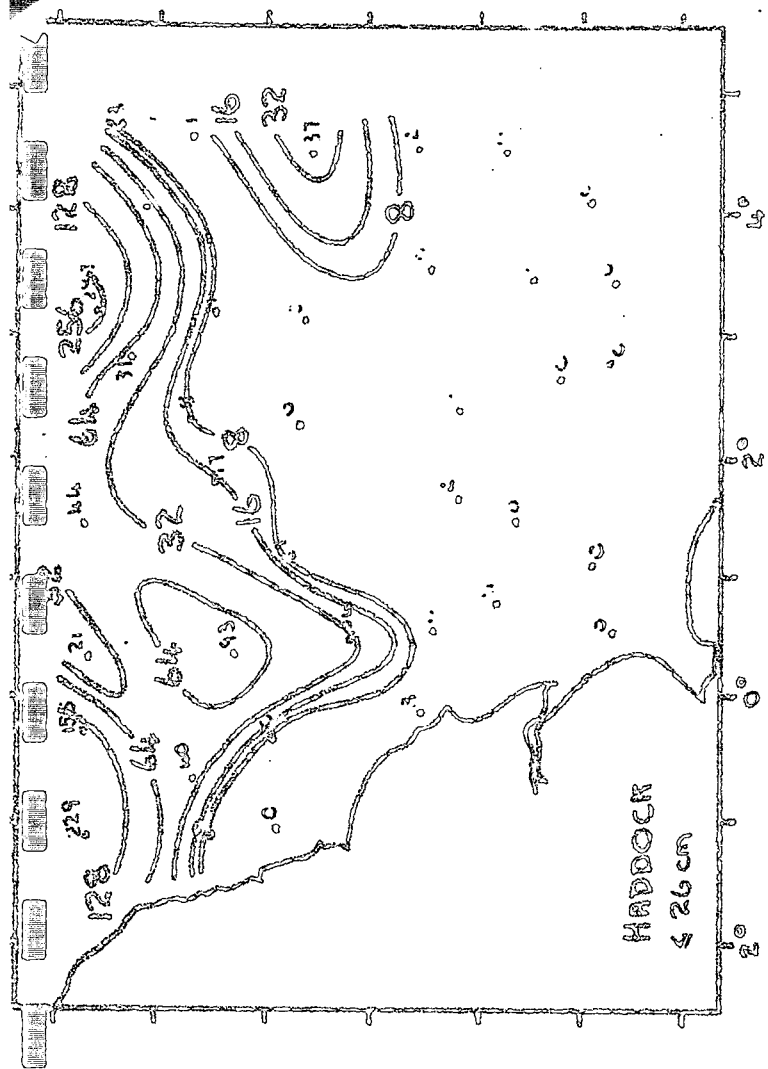
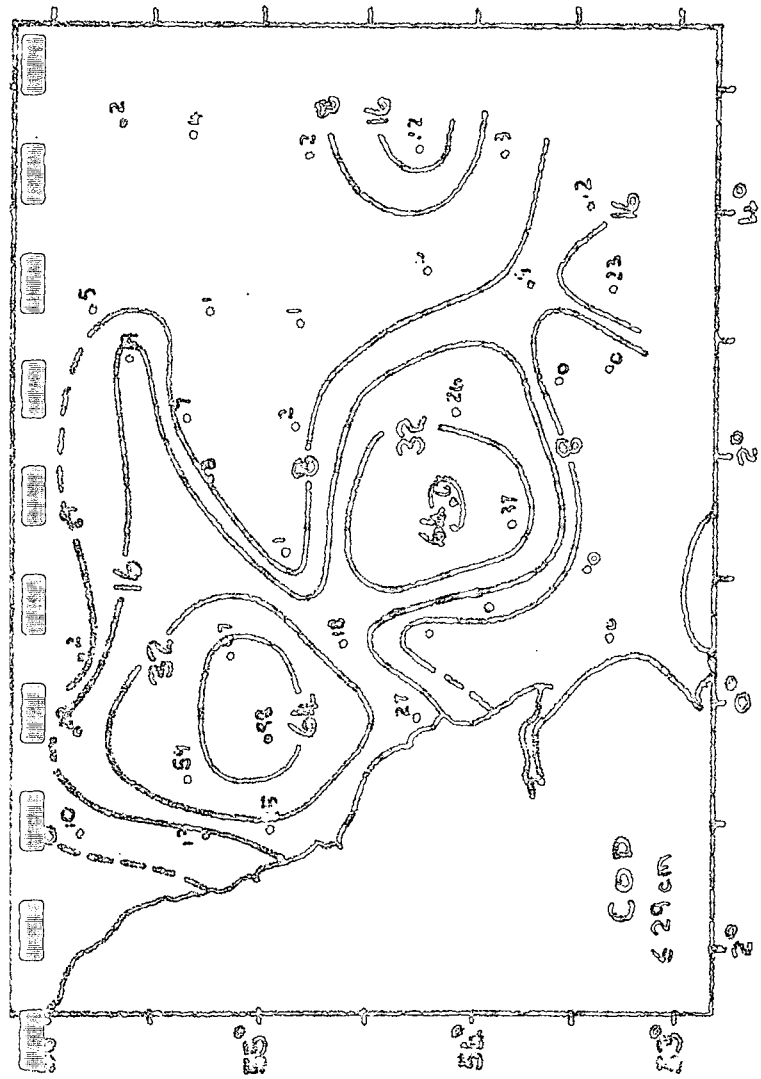
J A Durance  
T J Hulme  
6 June 1978

SEEN IN DRAFT: Captain J R French  
G F Lee - Fishing Skipper

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION:

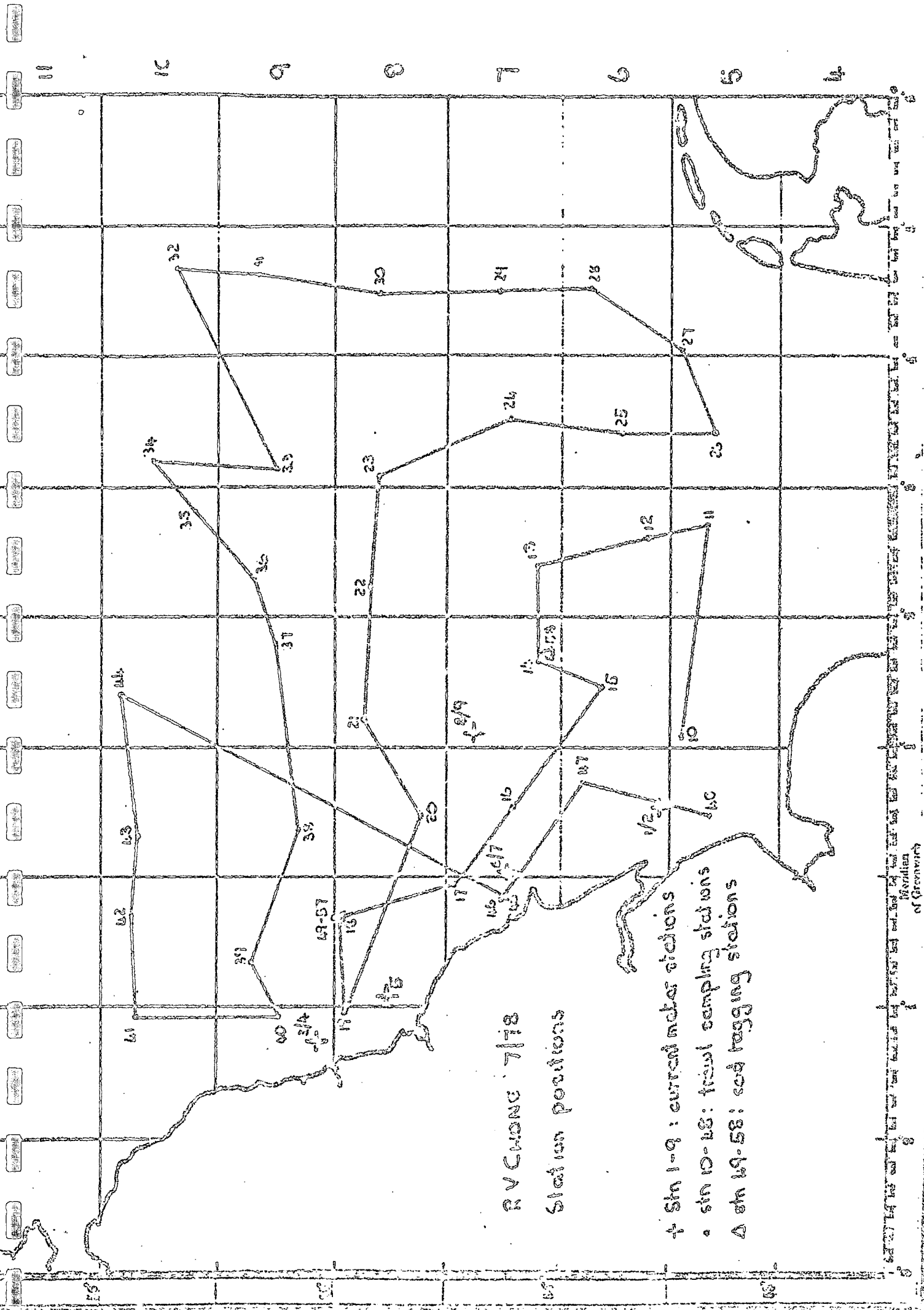
Basic List  
J A Durance  
M E Davies  
P R Robinson  
T J Hulme  
C N Humphreys  
A M Watson  
Mrs M Boon  
Mrs S Carter  
P Large  
W Parnell  
R Houghton



CLONE 7178

Total number of  
 max. vertical fish caught  
 of each station

11-22 May 1978



RVCHONG 7178  
Station positions

- + Stn 1-9 : current meter stations
- Stn 10-28: trawl sampling stations
- △ Stn 29-58: cod tagging stations

1:62,277 1:64 1:65 1:66 1:67 1:68 1:69 1:70 1:71 1:72 1:73 1:74 1:75 1:76 1:77 1:78 1:79 1:80 1:81 1:82 1:83 1:84 1:85 1:86 1:87 1:88 1:89 1:90 1:91 1:92 1:93 1:94 1:95 1:96 1:97 1:98 1:99 1:100

Division of Geography