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

1978 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORELLA: CRUISE 9

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

STAFF:

M J Holden
I L Davies
T Watson
Y Agyei-Dua (Sandwich course student)

DURATION:

Left Lowestoft 1055 h, 12 June

Arrived Lowestoft 0300 h, 27 June

LOCALITY:

North Sea

AIMS:

1. To participate in the international North Sea 0-group gadoid survey.

2. To collect by-catch data.

3. To record macroplankton (Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen).

4. To collect deep frozen 0-group cod (Mr Child).

NARRATIVE

The ship started work north of Flamborough Head at 0556 h/13 and from there surveyed northwards along the east coasts of England and Scotland. The ship berthed at Kirkwall at 1011 h/20 for fuel and water and sailed again at 0705 h/21. Six stations were then worked north and west of the Orkney Islands before making a passage through the Pentland Firth to survey three stations between 57 and 58°N and 0°-2°E. The coastal stations south of 56°N were then re-surveyed. The English part of the survey was completed at 1054 h/26 and passage was then made for Lowestoft.

Daily radio contact was made with RVs TRIDENS and JOHAN HJORT, who were also participating in the survey, and information on catches of 0-group gadoids exchanged.

RESULTS

A total of 47 stations was worked. Each haul consisted of a one-hour tow with the international young gadoid pelagic trawl, 20 minutes near bottom, 20 minutes mid-water or at the thermocline (identified before each haul with a bathythermograph cast) and 20 minutes near surface; hauls were made at the centre of ICES statistical squares.

South of 56°30'N 0-group gadoids were very scarce, only 14 cod being caught in 24 hauls. The total absence of 0-group whiting from this area was in marked

contrast to previous years. Only in the northern half of the Moray Firth and around the Orkney Islands were whiting found in numbers greater than 10/1 h haul (both TRIDENS and JCHAN HJORT caught very few whiting in their parts of the survey area). In the northern half of the survey area both cod and haddock were less abundant than in previous years, with the greatest abundance of both species being in the same area as for whiting. Although the full results of the whole survey are not yet available, a first assessment suggests that the 1978 year-classes of cod, haddock and Norway pout are much smaller than in previous years (with the exception of cod off the Danish coast) and that that of whiting is very small.

A record, including length measurements, of all other species caught was maintained (Aim 2) as well as of macroplankton (Aim 3). Compared with 1977, all species of jellyfish, especially Cyanea lamarcki and C. capillata, were much scarcer while larval Nephrops norvegicus were recorded for the first time (at stations 14 and 15, where they were abundant). Four samples of 0-group cod were deep-frozen for immunogenetic studies by Mr Child (Aim 4) as well as 14 samples of sandeels (Dr Pawson), ten of sprats (Dr Johnson) and three of herring (Mr Wood).

M J Holden
6 July 1978

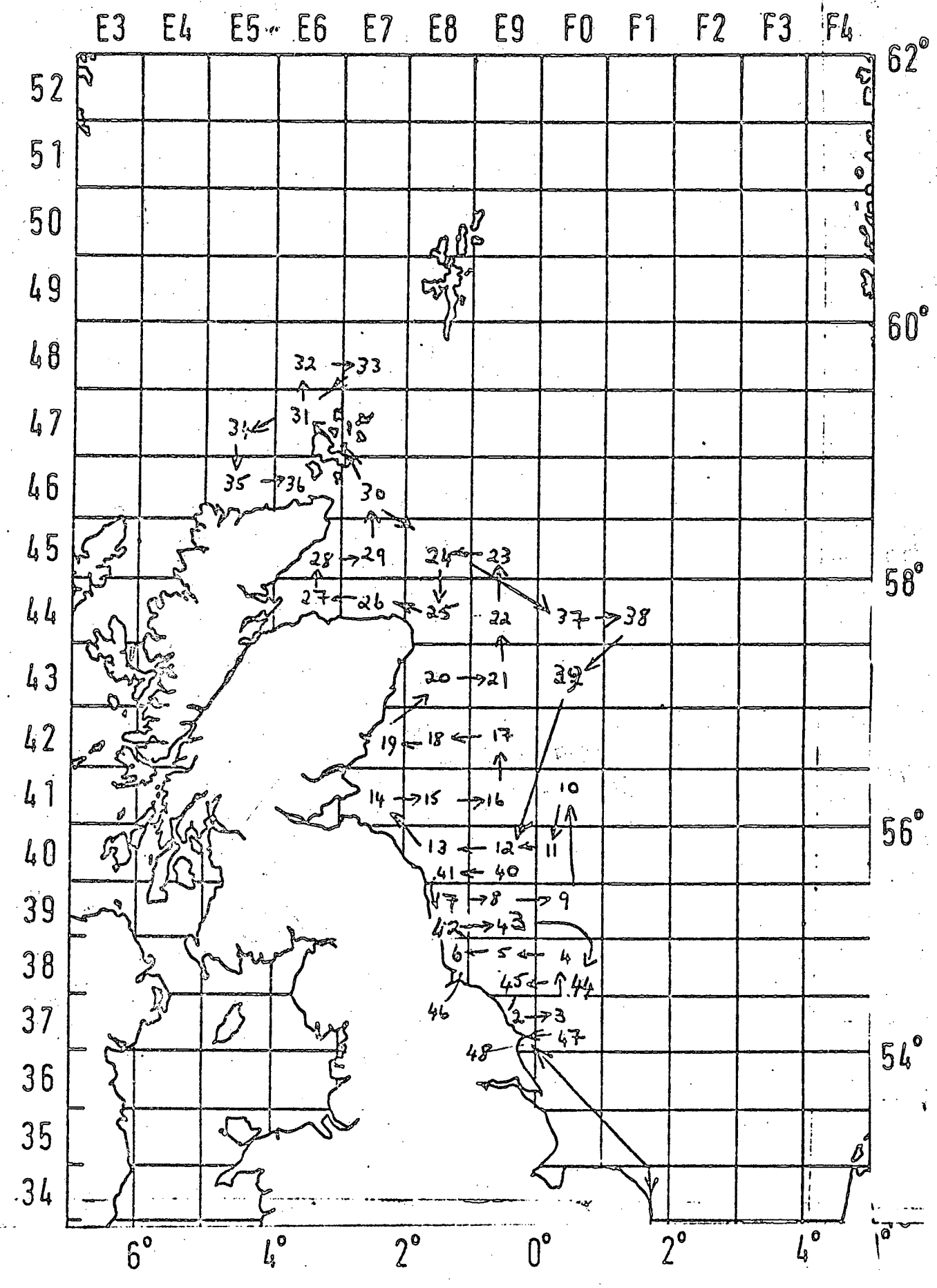
SEEN IN DRAFT: JEMB
RCN

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List

Mr Child
Dr Pawson
Dr Johnson
Mr Wood
Mr Parnell
Mr Holden
Mr I L Davies
Mr T Watson
Mr Y Agyei-Dua
Mr Macer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