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MFV *Azalea*

Cruise 2193H

REPORT

14-30 July 1993

Personnel

D Reid	SSO (in charge)
S P R Greenstreet	HSO
F Armstrong	SO
I M Gibb	SO
A Webb	ASO
F Torres	Visitor

Objectives

To carry out acoustic survey for herring in ICES area VIa(N) as part of the ICES coordinated acoustic and mid-water trawling survey in the north western North Sea and North of Scotland.

Out-turn days per project: 17 days EAA1

Narrative

All gear was transported to Ullapool by lorry and furniture van on 13 July and loaded onto the vessel in Ullapool on 14 July. Scientific staff joined the vessel in Ullapool on 14 July. *Azalea* sailed on the afternoon to Little Loch Broom for calibration of the acoustic equipment. The survey commenced early on 15 July. The survey track (see attached map) proceeded southwards down the Minch, covered the area south of the Hebrides to 56°N and then up the west side of the Hebrides, out to the shelf break. The final part of the survey covered the shelf area west of Orkney and Fair Isle, up to 60°N.

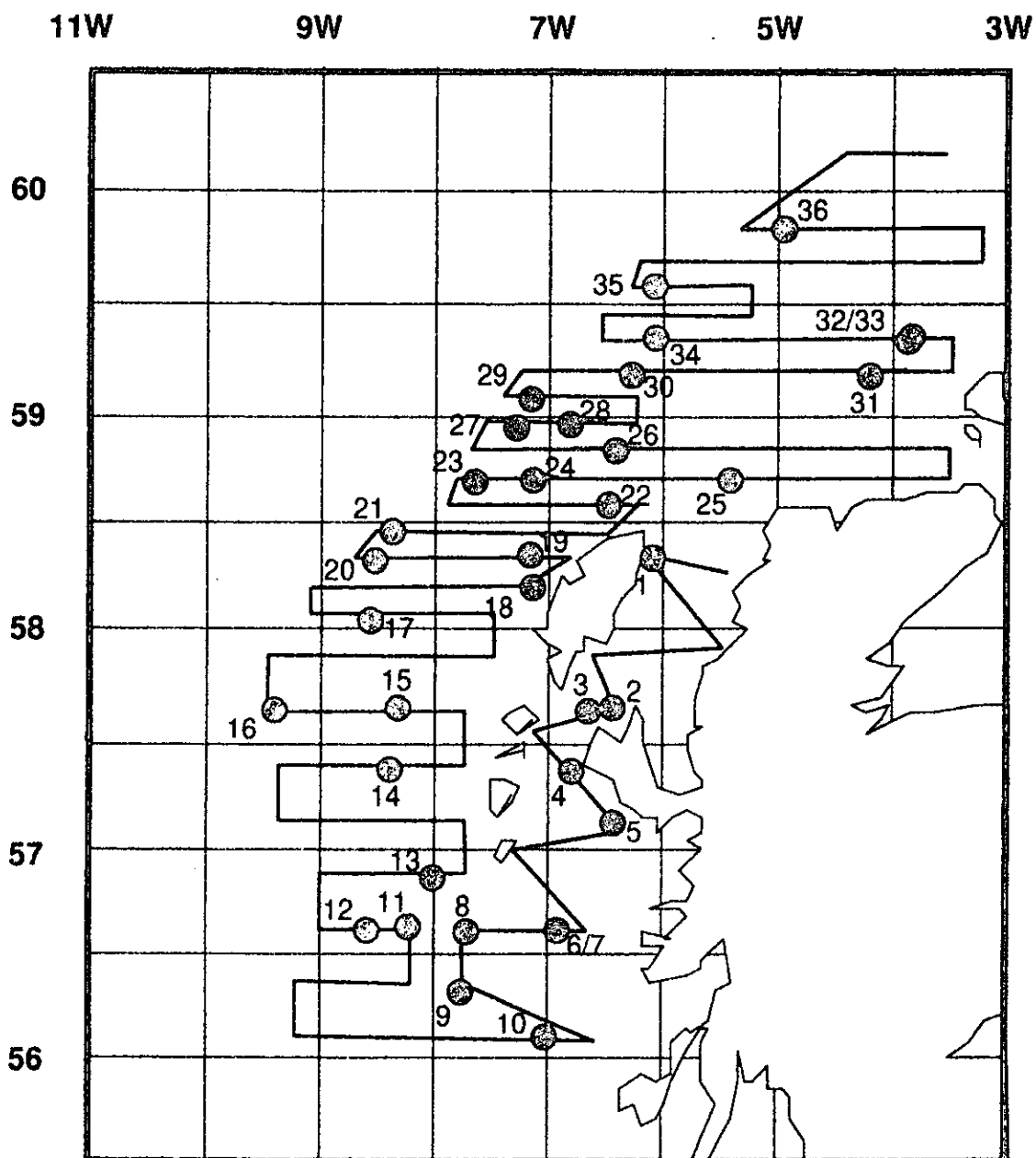
Following completion of the survey, the vessel steamed to Scapa Flow for a second calibration, conducted on 29 July. *Azalea* then steamed to Scrabster. Scientists and gear were unloaded in Scrabster on the morning of 30 July for return to Aberdeen.

Results

The survey was completely successful, with no time lost due to bad weather. The total mileage surveyed was 2450 nm. Fishing exercises were generally successful. Thirty-six trawl hauls were carried out, 21 of these containing significant numbers of herring. The spawning stock biomass estimated for the survey area was 866,510 tonnes. The stock is dominated by six ring fish (25% approximately by weight of the total). There is no evidence of a strong recruitment, two ring fish are present in similar proportions to previous year classes.

D G Reid

8 April 1994



Survey track and trawl stations. Azalea 14 - 29 July