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

1983 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CIROLANA: CRUISE 1
(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF

R J Wood
M W Easey
J Dann
C G Brown
S Warnes
P Hudson

DURATION

Left Grimsby 0955 h 6 January
Arrived Grimsby 0541 h 13 January
(All times are Greenwich Mean Time)

LOCALITY

Southern Bight and eastern Channel

AIMS

1. To carry out a survey for herring larvae in the Southern Bight and eastern Channel as part of an international survey of the abundance and distribution of autumn spawned herring larvae in the North Sea and adjacent waters.
2. To make a number of comparative hauls with the Netherlands research vessel TRIDENS, in order to obtain further data on the performance of the English and Dutch versions of the Gulf 111 high-speed plankton sampler.
3. To obtain samples of herring for age analysis.

NARRATIVE

CIROLANA sailed from Grimsby at 0955 h 6 January. The high-speed plankton sampler was calibrated in free flow from 1300-1400 h and the larval survey commenced 2200 h at position 52° 15' N 02° 30' E. A line of plankton stations was then worked in a southwesterly direction into the eastern English Channel and a total of 39 stations completed before a heavy swell forced CIROLANA to dodge 0900-1300 h 9 January. Sampling was then continued and the remaining 12 stations in the eastern Channel completed by 0212 h 10 January. CIROLANA then moved into the Southern Bight and completed a further 11 stations by 1817 h that day. 12 comparative plankton hauls were then made with the Netherlands research vessel TRIDENS between positions 51° 44' N 03° 12' E and 51° 36' N 02° 57' E, 1935-2250 h. After this the standard survey grid was resumed 2327 h 10 January and the final station completed at 1136 h 12 January. Course was then set for Grimsby where CIROLANA docked 0541 h 13 January.

RESULTS

Aim 1. 103 plankton stations were completed with the high-speed sampler covering the complete area of herring larval distribution in both the eastern Channel and Southern Bight. Although larvae were found at a number of stations in the Channel densities appeared to be low. In the Southern Bight a patch of larvae was located and densities were much higher.

Aim 2. 12 comparative hauls were made with the Netherlands research vessel TRIDENS within the larval patch in the Southern Bight.

Aim 3. No fishing was carried out during this cruise owing to a lack of fish echo traces in water of sufficient depth for midwater trawling.

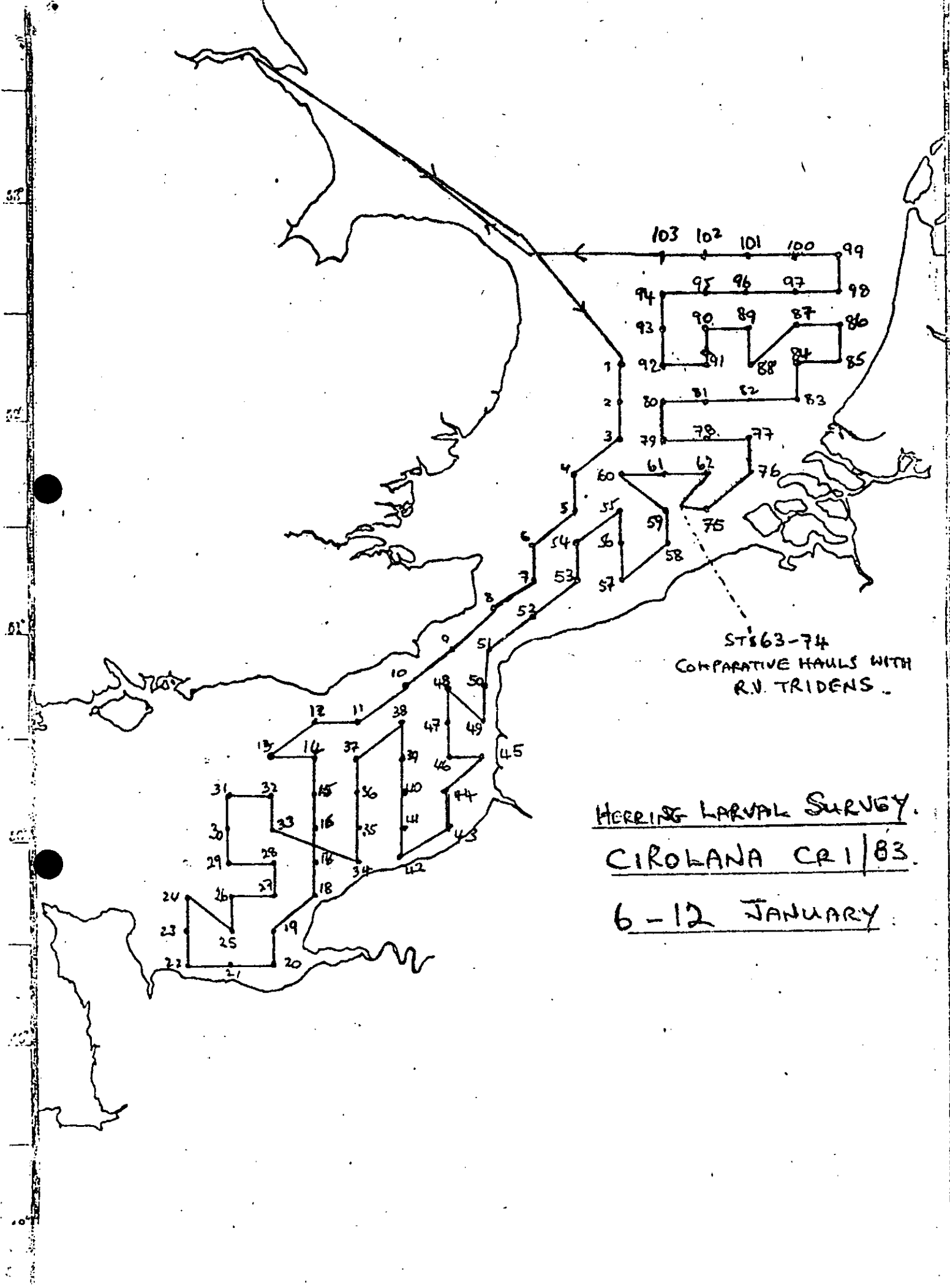
R J Wood
25 January 1983

SEEN IN DRAFT: M J Willcock - Captain
E W Pearson - Fishing Skipper

INITIALLED: DJG

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List
R J Wood
M W Easey
J Dann
C G Brown
S Warnes
P Hudson



STS 63-74
 COMPARATIVE HAULS WITH
 R.V. TRIDENS.

HERRING LARVAL SURVEY.
CIROLANA CR 1/83.
6-12 JANUARY.