

IN CONFIDENCE

FRV CLUPEA
CRUISE 11/79
REPORT

4 SEPTEMBER - 11 OCTOBER 1979

OBJECTIVES

- (1) To participate in the ICES North Sea herring larval surveys.
- (2) To recover a hydrographic buoy mooring.

NARRATIVE

After loading scientific gear 'Clupea' sailed from Buckie at 11.30 on 4 September. Fifty stations were sampled along the southern shore of the Moray Firth and off the east coast of Scotland prior to 'Clupea' docking in Aberdeen on 7 September. 'Clupea' sailed from Aberdeen on 10 September and worked stations in the outer Moray Firth. Deteriorating weather conditions during the morning of 11 September restricted operations to the inshore stations east of Orkney but by 1700 on 11 September a further worsening of the weather caused 'Clupea' to seek shelter. The survey was recommenced on the morning of 12 September following a slight improvement in the weather conditions. However after only four stations had been sampled 'Clupea' had once more to seek shelter. The bad weather continued for most of that week although a slight improvement on 14 September allowed a further one station to be sampled before 'Clupea' docked on Kirkwall for the weekend. After sailing on the morning of 17 September 'Clupea' sampled one station before having to return to shelter. With no prospect of a substantial improvement in the weather it was decided to sample the stations in the Moray Firth. During 18 September a further seven stations were completed before the survey was again interrupted by bad weather. Following an improvement in the weather nine more stations were sampled before 'Clupea' docked in Buckie on 20 September to allow Mr A Mair to attend an interview on 21 September.

'Clupea' sailed from Buckie on 24 September and completed nine stations before bad weather caused the ship to seek shelter. The survey was recommenced on 25 September and continued until early on 26 September when Mr G Calder reported that he suspected that he had chickenpox. After landing Calder in Aberdeen the skipper, Mr A Mair, agreed to sail short handed and another 14 stations were completed before 'Clupea' returned to Aberdeen on the evening of 27 September. 'Clupea' sailed from Aberdeen on 1 October but after sampling only one station had to seek shelter and no more work was possible that week. After sailing from Buckie on 8 October it was found that the radar was defective, the ship returned to Buckie to have it repaired. Following repeated delays, because of a lack of spare parts the cruise was terminated on the evening of 11 October when it became obvious that the radar would not be repaired that week.

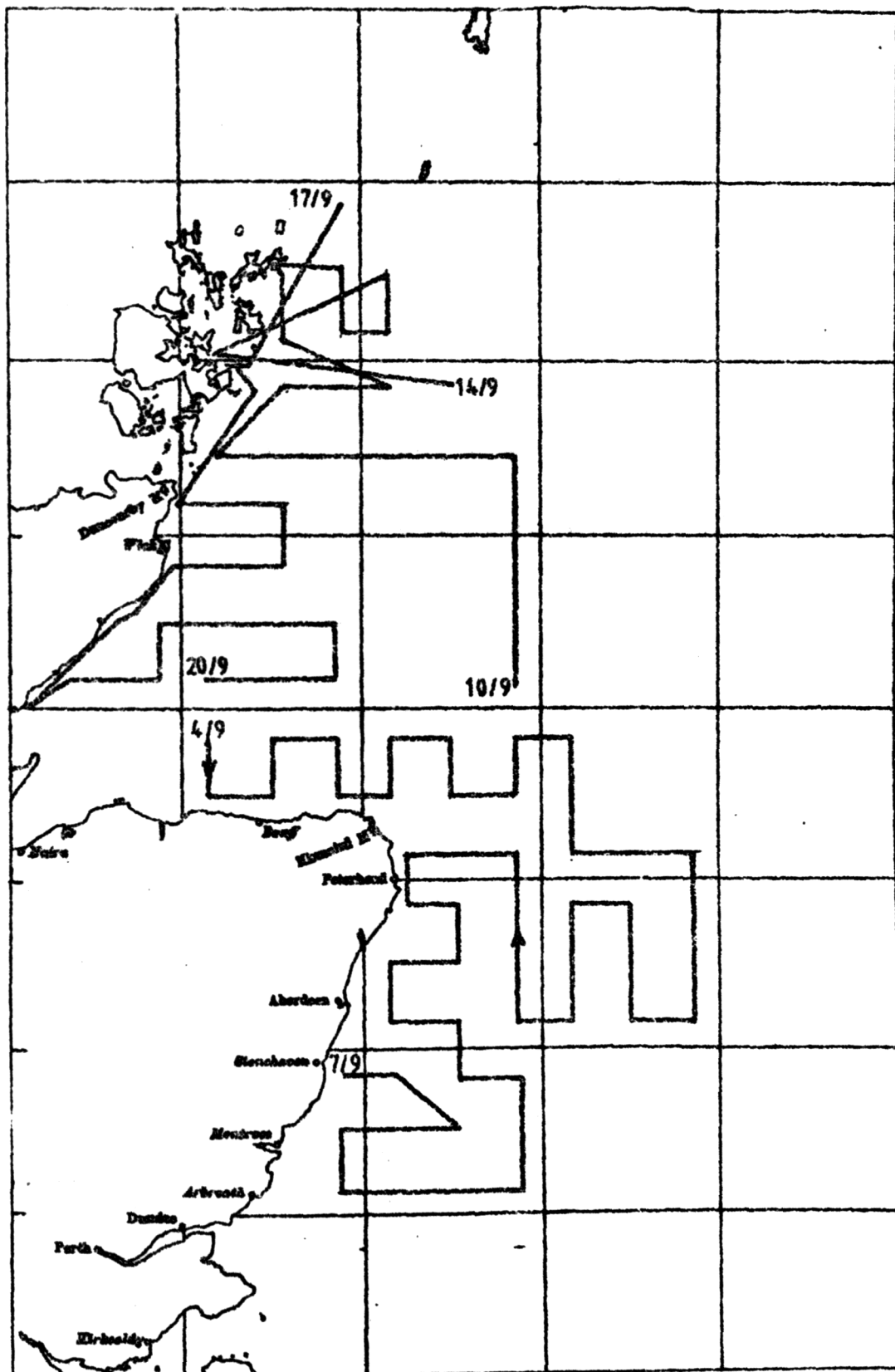
RESULTS

During the cruise a total of 124 samples were taken. This is very much less than was planned with the area around Orkney and Shetland being very poorly sampled. Detailed analysis of the samples is not available but examination when the samples were taken indicated that larvae were rather scarce.

Because of the loss of time due to bad weather and the defective radar no attempt was made to recover the buoy mooring.

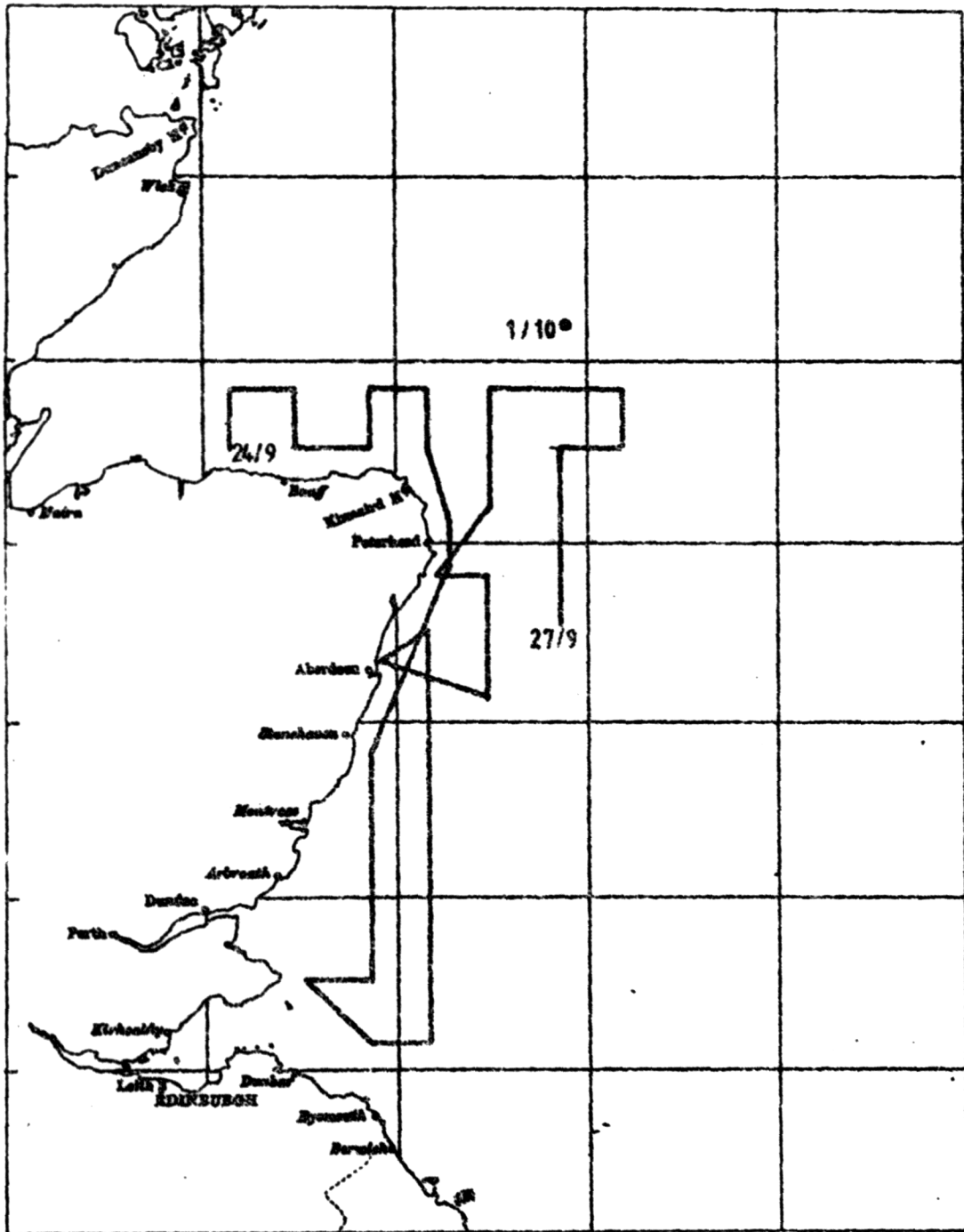
David W McKay
6.11.79

Seen in draft
G Geddes



FRV. Clupea 4/9-11/10/79

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ERV. Clupea 4/9 — 11/10/79

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