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FRV *Clupea*

Cruise 1191C

Report

9-20 August 1991

Personnel

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Objective

To determine the distribution and relative abundance of sandeel (*Ammodytes marinus*) on inshore fishing grounds at Shetland.

Narrative

Scientific staff joined *Clupea* in Aberdeen at 0900 on 9 August and sailed to Fair Isle to commence trawling the following day. Sampling continued till 19 August when one haul was made in the morning; *Clupea* then sailed to Aberdeen, docking at 0100 on 20 August. It was not possible to trawl on the afternoon of 15 August due to bad weather. Where possible, three trawl hauls were made at each of the recognised sandeel fishing grounds shown on Figure 1. Seven grounds were either not sampled sufficiently, or at all, due to unsuitable weather conditions or time constraints.

Results

A total of 33 valid trawl hauls were made, 31 of which caught *A. marinus*. Catches of up to 3,428 Kg of *A. marinus* were made for a trawl haul of 30 minutes duration. With the exception of hauls made at Voe, '0' group *A. marinus* accounted for the vast majority of sandeels caught. This shows a marked change in distribution of '0' group from the previous 2 years' surveys, where they were concentrated only on the east coast grounds. Table 1 shows the number at age of *A. marinus* for a standardised 30 minute haul by ground.

No rare fish species were encountered therefore no weight at length data was collected.

J R Hutcheon

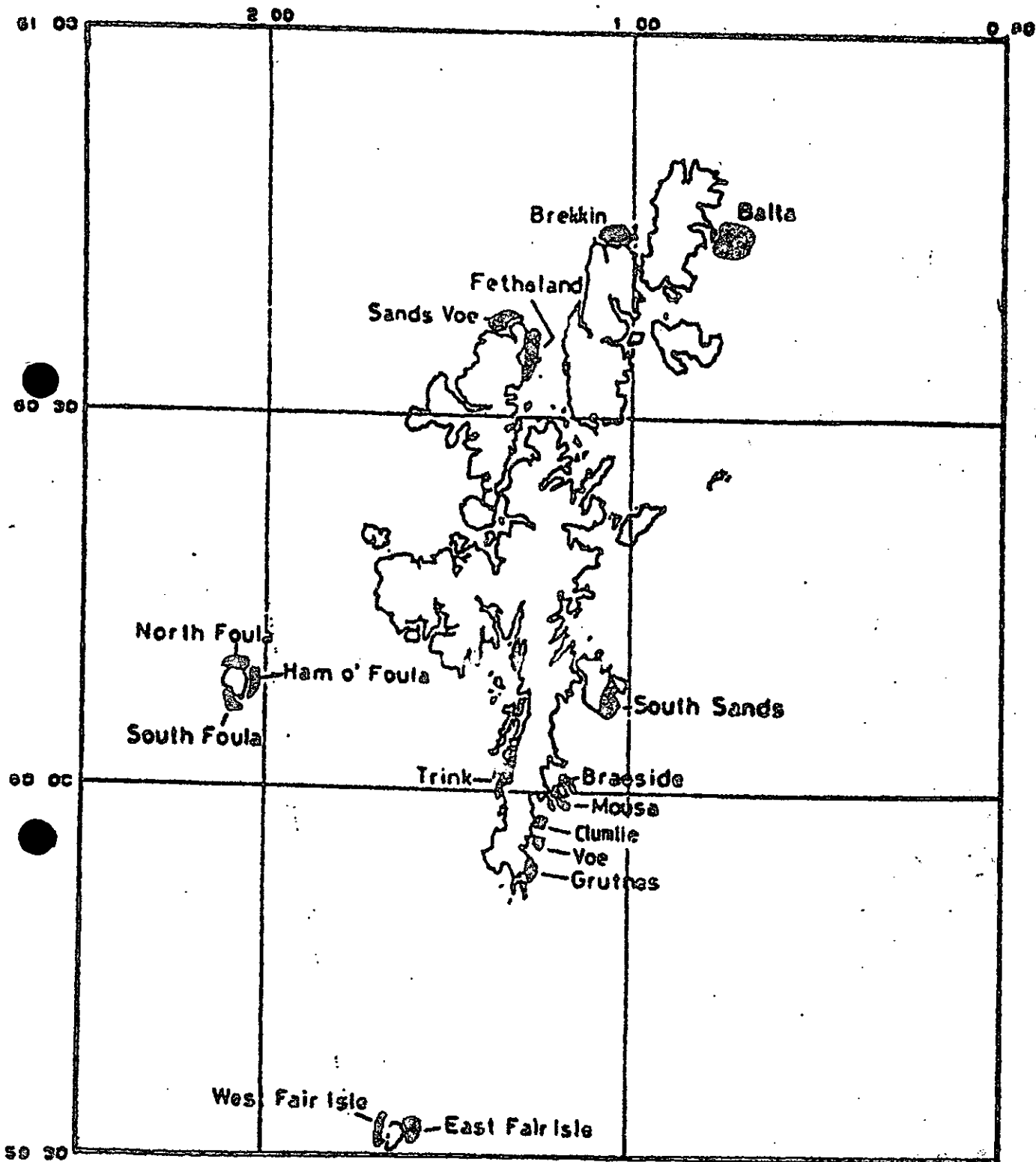
7 October 1991

TABLE 1

Ammodytes marinus, Numbers at age per 30 minute haul by ground. Shetland, August 1991

Ground	Age 0	Age 1	Age 2+	Total	No Hauls
East Fair Isle	63242	2733	2425	68400	3
Ba'as	162881	1696	0	164577	3
Voe	20099	32992	47735	100826	3
Mousa	1730377	66045	5661	1802083	3
Braeside	183438	11523	1609	196570	3
Grutness	6160	5	7	6172	2
South Sands	570855	1457	0	572312	3
Brekkin	117572	3971	5568	127111	2
Sands Voe	251366	12875	3888	268129	3
Fethaland	185991	2192	383	188566	4
Balta	7888	6	3	7897	3
North Foula	309626	0	0	309626	1
South Foula	-	-	-	-	0
Ham of Foula	-	-	-	-	0
Trink	-	-	-	-	0
West Fair Isle	-	-	-	-	0

FIGURE 1



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