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In confidence: Not to be quoted without reference  
to the Laboratory

FRV "Clupea"

Cruise 7/79

Report

June 4-15 1979

#### PERSONNEL

A P Robb HSO

K A Coull SO

R M Cook SO

#### OBJECTIVES

1. To survey the abundance and distribution of 0 group gadoids in the Western North Sea.
2. To collect material for studies on the food of young gadoids.
3. To bring back live '0' group fish for use in the aquarium.

#### NARRATIVE

"Clupea" sailed on the 4th June. Work began on the 5th June in the Moray Firth and continued westwards without interruption until the ship docked in Stornoway at 2330 hrs on the 8th June for the weekend. "Clupea" sailed at 0015 hrs on the 11th June and work commenced at the stations west of the Hebrides, progressing eastwards during the week. All stations were completed and "Clupea" docked at Buckie on the evening tide of 14th June.

#### RESULTS

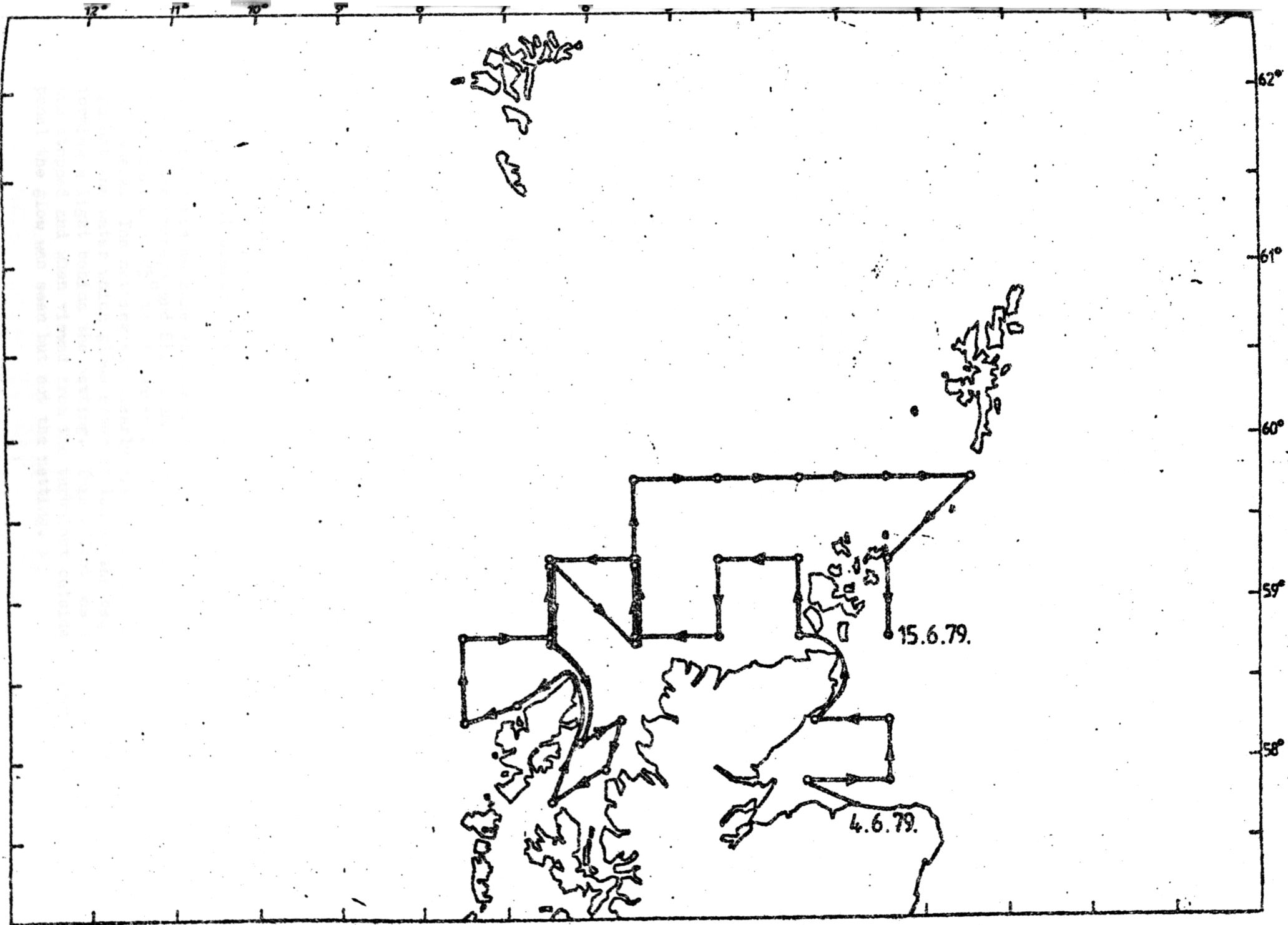
1. The young gadoid survey was completed successfully. One standard tow of one hour's duration (20 mins near the sea bed, 20 mins in mid water and 20 mins near the surface) was made near the centre of each statistical rectangle.

The highest catches for all species were taken in the Western part of the survey. The largest catches of cod were in rectangles 46E4 (196 fish), 44E3 (154 fish), 44E4 (133 fish). Haddock were taken in large numbers in squares 47E3 (570 fish), 46E3 (379 fish) and 44E3 (358 fish). The largest catches of whiting were in rectangles 47E3 (239 fish), 46E3 (298 fish) and 44E3 (221 fish). Norway pout were taken in small numbers apart from rectangle 45E3 where 1226 fish were caught. Saithe were found in most rectangles in low numbers, the greatest catch being 33 fish in 45E3. Blue whiting were taken to the north and west of the Hebrides, the largest number occurring in 46E3 (12 fish).

2. Samples of young gadoids from selected rectangles were preserved in formalin for stomach content analysis. At these stations an oblique haul was made with the Dutch Gulf III.
3. No live fish were brought back to the Laboratory.
4. Macroplankton: Scyphomedusae were present in most hauls and these were measured and counted.
5. Other species: The main by-catch was sandeels and samples of these and also sprats were collected on a rectangle basis and deep frozen for analysis at the Laboratory.

A P ROBB  
20 June 1979

Seen in draft: G Geddes



Clupea

4.6.79. - 15.6.79.

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