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Charter Vessel MV 'Clarkwood' A526

REPORT

Cruise 11-20 September 1985

Personnel

A W Newton SSO  
D C Emslie HSO  
C P Whitworth ASO

Objective

To undertake a routine trawling survey on Rockall Bank.

Narrative

'Clarkwood' sailed at 1200hrs on 11 September and proceeded towards Rockall Bank. Heavy seas delayed arrival until 0900hrs, on 13 September when fishing commenced at stations north of the Rock. Severe gales caused work to be abandoned after 4 hauls and the vessel dodged until 0730hrs on 15 September when moderating conditions allowed fishing operations to be resumed. In the ensuing 72 hours a further 26 hauls were made over the entire Rockall Bank, most of the stations being within the 200 metre mark. 'Clarkwood' left the fishing grounds at 0300hrs on 18th and docked in Aberdeen at 2000hrs on 19 September.

Results

A total of 30 hauls were made with a 48' Aberdeen trawl fitted with a 30mm. small mesh cover. Seven hauls were declared invalid due either to gear damage (mainly coral) or burst cod lines. Catch rates per hour varied from 4 to 90 baskets. The major species encountered was haddock and Table 1 shows the overwhelming proportion of legal sized fish were 4 and 5 year olds. However, the bulk of the haddock catch consisted of the 1984 year class which, on the basis of available data, would appear to be the largest year class at Rockall for the last 20 years. The bulk of the 1 year olds were caught on the south side of Rockall. Commercial size haddock and 0+ fish tended to be found to the north of the rock.

Other species of fish were present but not in large numbers; the commonest were M. poutassou, Sebastes spp and T. minutus.

A W Newton  
21 October 1985

Clarkwood Routine Survey Rockall Bank 1985

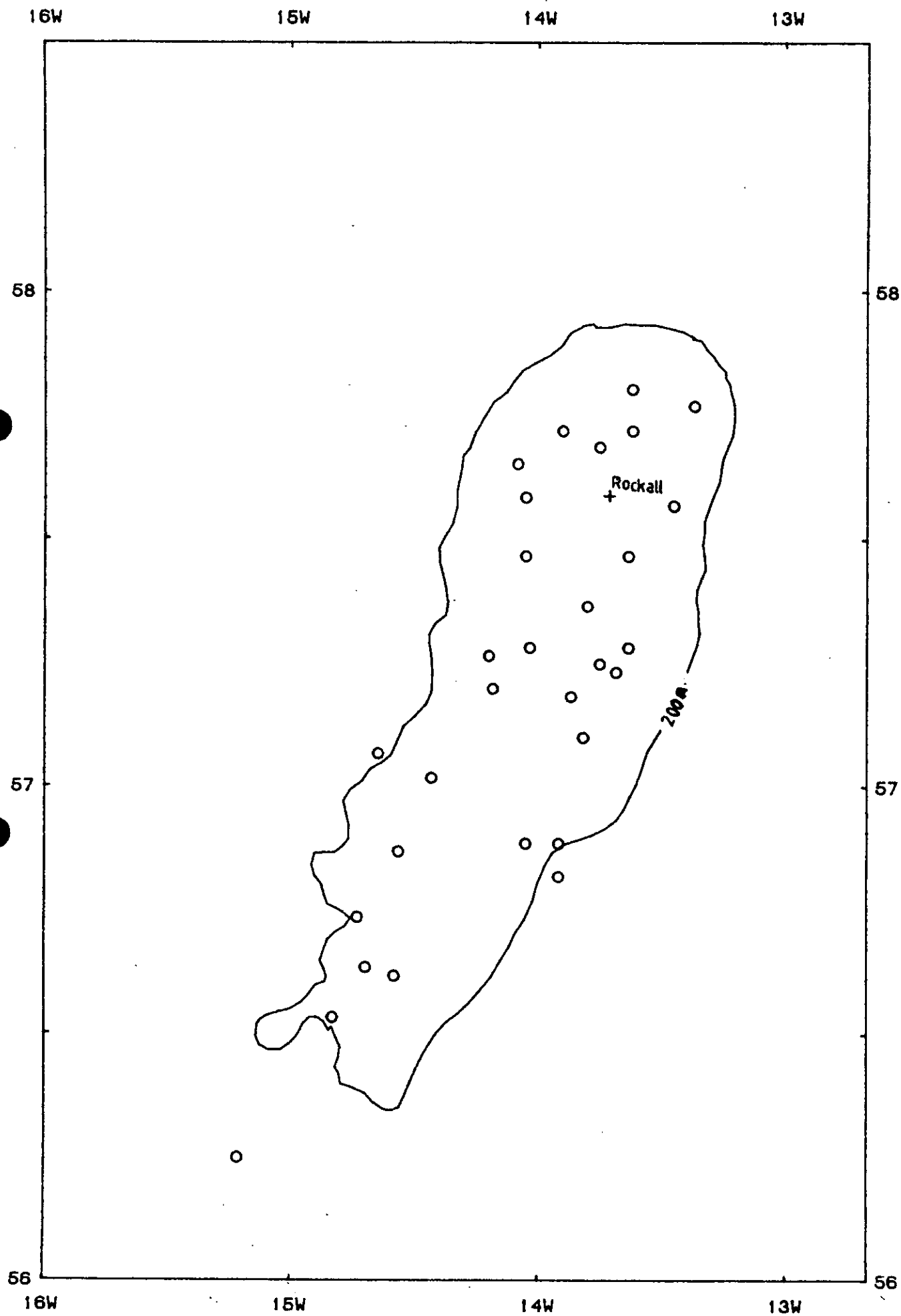


Table 1 Numbers and mean length of haddock - Rockall Bank 1985

Age		Numbers per 10 hours	Mean length (cm)
0		489	12.65
1		51284	23.07
2		214	28.30
3		31	36.46
4		4218	34.98
5		676	38.53
6		1	49.83
7		2	47.21
8		43	43.28
9		92	43.86