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

1987 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CLIONE: CRUISE 11(a)

STAFF:

18-23 August	24 August
J D Riley, SIC	J H Nichols
G Howlett	B R Riches
C L Whiting	B C Mumford
D R Eaton	M J Challis
J Dann	M Symons) CSA
P M Hudson	A Grant)

DURATION:

Left Lowestoft 1430 h, 18 August
Changed staff 0800 h, 24 August
Arrived Lowestoft finally 1845 h, 24 August. All times GMT.

LOCALITY:

Southern North Sea and eastern Channel.

AIMS:

1. To carry out a trawl survey of sole and plaice in ICES areas VIID and the western edge of IVC.

2. To select beam trawl sampling positions for the 1988 international flatfish stock assessment survey.

3. To tag sole to demonstrate movement in relation to size and maturity.

4. Late extra aim: to test the CSA plankton multinet system fitted with new sensors and torque winch operating springs.

NARRATIVE:

After leaving Lowestoft the post refit compass calibrations were completed and CLIONE set course at 1600 h, for the first fishing station off Boulogne. The survey aimed to repeat the survey carried out in August 1976 using similar gear and procedures, at depths of 40 m. Fishing was carried out in daylight hours and commenced at 0500 on 19 August and completed at 1745 h on 21 August (see track plot).

On 22 and 23 August rectangles 30 E9 and F0 were searched for suitable beam trawl tows for the 1988 International survey and tested using a Dutch style 3 m beam trawl. CLIONE proceeded to Lowestoft overnight docking at 0800 24 August to allow the testing of the prototype plankton net that day, finally docking at 1845 h.

RESULTS:

1. Catch rates for sole in the repeat of the 1976 survey were low averaging about two/45 min haul with a 23.8 m Granton otter trawl but were not

statistically different from the 1976 values. Subsequent work on Aim 2 indicated that although generally safe for the gear, the stations were not positioned to cover areas where maximum catches of sole (and plaice?) could be expected.

2. The modified Dutch 3 m beam trawl worked well as a test gear for beam trawl hauls off the English coast. Generally higher catch rates for sole and plaice were achieved in water shallower than that sampled in 1976. The required six stations in each rectangle were identified, covering depths from 10 to 43 m.

3. Due to shortage of time and the absence of worthwhile concentrations of sole, no tagging was attempted.

4. The stability of the prototype multinet plankton sampling system in pitch and roll was excellent throughout the trials. Indications of the net status were variable until adjustments were made to switch positions. Thereafter the nets were seen to open reliably every time. The major problem encountered was that the top bars did not go down positively enough which meant that the nets did not close with certainty.

John D Riley
23 October 1987

SEEN IN DRAFT: JRF, PM

INITIALLED: DJG

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list+
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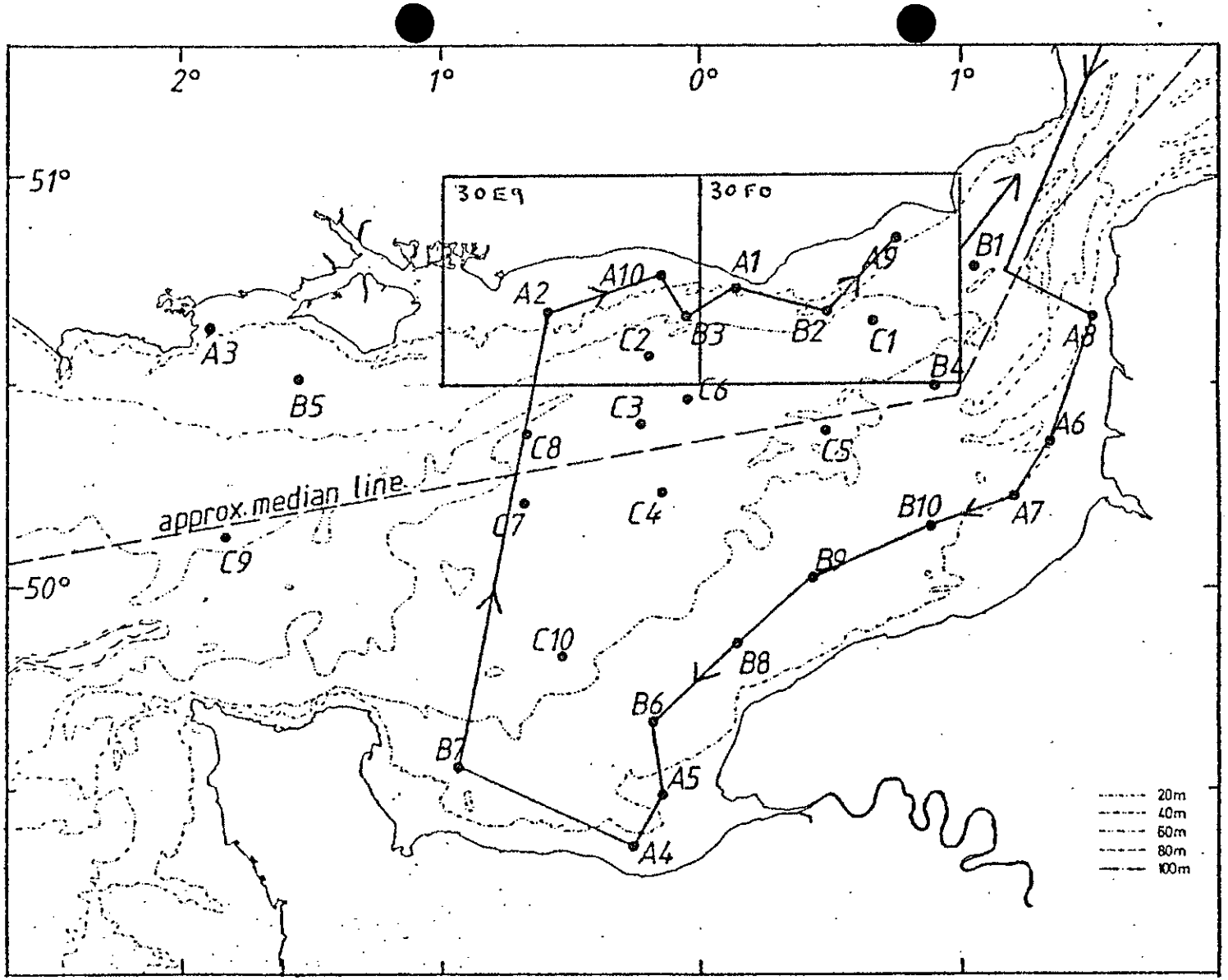

TRACK PLOT CLIONE 11a 1987