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

1981 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CLIONE: CRUISE 12/81
(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF

D J Symonds

I L Davies

T J Hulme

T Watson

Mrs M J Boon

E Fannon, Eire (28 Sept-1 Oct)

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 0900 h 28 September

Arrived Lowestoft 2115 h 16 October

All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY

Irish Sea

AIMS

1. To carry out a survey of 0- and I-group gadoids using the Granton trawl.
2. To sample stomach contents of a range of species for use with multi-species assessment models.
3. To repeat part of the gadoid survey in the northern Irish Sea using the Portuguese modification of the Granton trawl.
4. To repeat part of the Irish Sea groundfish survey.
5. To collect samples of fish for the Aquatic Environment Protection Division (Burnham) from Liverpool and Morecambe Bays.
6. To collect specimens of fish for the Fish Identification courses run by R Blacker and for the Environmental Archaeology Unit, University of York.
7. To collect samples of small gadoids for the Fish Cultivation Unit.

NARRATIVE

Fishing commenced off Tuskar Rocks at 1400 h on 30 September and continued off the east coast of Ireland until the evening of 1 October when Mr Fannon, who had been ill for most of the cruise, was landed by pilot boat at Dublin. CLIONE then steamed to the Welsh coast but, due to increasing northerly winds, was unable to work and proceeded to an anchorage in Tremadoc Bay. A temporary improvement in the weather during the afternoon of the 2nd allowed 1 haul to be carried out before returning to anchor in Tremadoc Bay. The six remaining stations in Cardigan Bay, including the groundfish survey positions, were completed on the 3rd. Fishing continued

during the next 5 days in unsettled weather and all stations in the southern Irish Sea and west of the Isle of Man were completed before CLIONE docked at Douglas at 1500 h on 8 October.

Departure from Douglas was delayed until 0650 h on 11 October so that arrangements could be made for the treatment and repatriation of a greaser with a broken leg and due to gale force winds. At the end of the first haul off Maughold Head, the fore warp parted and the trawl was retrieved, with little damage, in steadily deteriorating conditions. CLIONE proceeded to an anchorage in Laxey Bay where the gear was repaired. The survey continued on the 12th and the remaining survey stations, 6 additional stations and two hauls for AEP2 (Burnham) were completed before CLIONE set sail for Lowestoft at 0740 h 14 October.

RESULTS

- 32 valid hauls, stratified by area and depth produced no 0-group cod, 84 I-group cod, 1085 0-group whiting and 3642 I-group whiting. The mean numbers per 1 hour haul are given in the following table:

Depth	Area	Cod		Whiting	
		0-group	I-group	0-group	I-group
<50m	NW sector	0	1.2	181.8	27.8
	NE "	0	0	1.5	255.2
	SW "	0	3.2	6.8	11.2
	SE "	0	2.8	47.0	388.5
>50m	NW sector	0	0.5	34.0	168.0
	NE "	0	12.2	0.2	34.0
	SW "	0	0.8	0.0	4.5
	SE "	0	0.2	0.0	21.2
Total Irish Sea		0	2.6	33.9	113.8

Compared to the previous two years, the 1981 year classes of both cod and whiting are poor. The good 1980 year class of whiting, noted last year, showed up strongly in the catches of this survey.

- The stomach contents of 1497 fish of 27 species taken in the routine survey hauls and 6 additional tows in the NE sector were examined in detail. Most emphasis was placed on sampling known fish predators but a high proportion of the fish examined were found to be feeding on crustaceans. Otoliths were taken from 562 fish in connection with the predation studies and to augment the routine market sampling programme.
- Following discussions with the captain and fishing skipper before the cruise, this aim was abandoned.
- The 8 stations in the Cardigan Bay survey were carried out. Few species of commercial importance were caught.
- Samples of 9 species of commercial fish from special hauls made in Liverpool Bay and Lune Deep were deep frozen for AEP2. Particular attention should have been given to the collection of I-group plaice but none were caught. In fact small plaice were uncommon throughout the whole survey area.
- Specimens of 40 species of fish were deep frozen for Mr Blacker's Fish Identification courses. Two species of fish were preserved for the

Environmental Archaeology Unit, University of York.

7. Four samples of small gadoids were collected for the Fish Cultivation Unit.

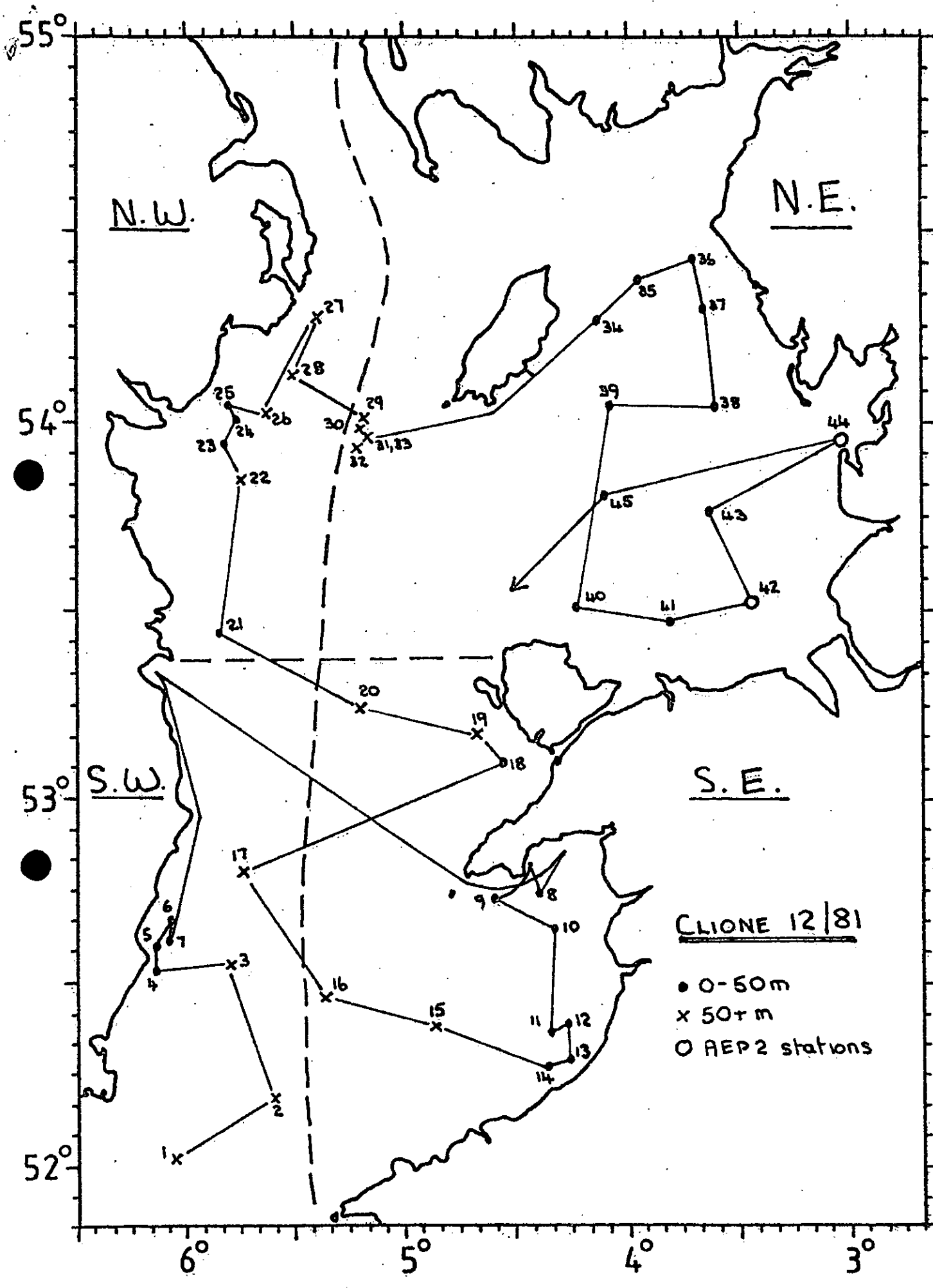
D J Symonds
26 October 1981

SEEN IN DRAFT: J R French - Master
R F Graham - Fishing Skipper

INITIALLED: DJG

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List
D J Symonds
I L Davies
T J Hulme
T Watson
Mrs M J Boon
E Fannon, Eire
Dr K Brander
Lancs and Western Sea Fisheries Joint Committee



CLIONE 12/81

- 0-50m
- x 50+ m
- REP 2 stations