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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
FISHERIES LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND
1982 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CLIONE : CRUISE 12

(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF:

D J Symonds
I L Davies
S Flatman
D W Palmer
J L Coleman
R Baino (Visitor, Italy) Part 1
D B Bennett, Part 2

DURATION:

Left Lowestoft 1030 h 7 September

Arrived Lowestoft 1830 h 27 September

(All times are Greenwich Mean time)

LOCALITY:

Irish and Celtic Seas

AIMS:

1. To carry out the annual survey of 0- and 1- group gadoids in the Irish Sea.
2. To sample stomach contents of a range of species for use with multi-species assessment models.
3. To repeat part of the Irish Sea groundfish survey in Cardigan Bay.
4. To complete the groundfish survey in the Celtic Sea started on CLIONE Cruise 8.
5. To collect samples of plaice and sole from NE Irish Sea for AEP-2.

NARRATIVE:

The Irish Sea gadoid survey commenced at 1300 h 9 September off Tuskar Rocks, Eire, and continued uninterrupted until docking at Peel for water, stores and change of scientific staff at 1240 h 17 September. All the stations in the southern Irish Sea and to the west of the Isle of Man had been completed. On leaving Peel at 0830 h 19 September, 2 hauls were made 10 miles west of the Chickens Rock to obtain Nephrops for biometric analyses but attempts to weigh individual Nephrops at anchor in Castletown Bay were unsuccessful. CLIONE, therefore, proceeded to the east of the Isle of Man and, despite short delays on the 20th and 21st due to strong to gale force SW winds, the Irish Sea survey was completed at 1830 h 23 September. Course was set for the Celtic Sea but, with increasing S to SW winds, CLIONE sought shelter in fishguard Bay on the 24th. In view of the forecast of continued bad weather, it was decided on 25 September to abandon the Celtic Sea survey and proceed direct to Lowestoft.

1982-09-27
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RESULTS:

Aim 1. The 32 routine stations, stratified by area and depth, produced 1341 0-group and 262 1-group whiting but only 8 0-group and 25 1-group cod. Provisional numbers per 1 hours fishing are given in the following table:

Depth	Sector	Cod		Whiting	
		0-group	1-group	0-group	1-group
0-50m	NW	0.8	0.0	89.5	4.5
	NE	0.0	5.5	0.0	9.5
	SW	0.2	0.2	5.8	1.0
	SE	0.0	0.0	111.8	8.0
50+m	NW	1.0	0.5	42.0	33.8
	NE	0.0	0.0	84.8	8.2
	SW	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
	SE	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.2
Irish Sea Total		0.5	0.8	41.9	8.3

These results confirm the conclusion from last years survey that the 1981 year class of cod was poor. They also indicate that the 1982 year classes of both cod and whiting are below average.

As well as the routine stations, 15 additional trawl hauls were carried out in the northern Irish Sea. Catches from all hauls were generally light, the main species numerically being the small gadoids, Trisopterus minutus and T. luscus. Good hauls of spurdog (up to 11 baskets) were made off the west coast of the Isle of Man and lesser spotted dogfish (5 baskets), south of Arklow Bank, Eire; 10 baskets of queen scallops were taken 17 miles off Douglas Head. Otoliths were collected from 709 fish in connection with the pre-recruit gadoid assessment and to augment the routine market sampling programme.

Samples of Nephrops from west of the Isle of Man and from off Cumbria were deepfrozen for later biometric analyses and for fecundity studies.

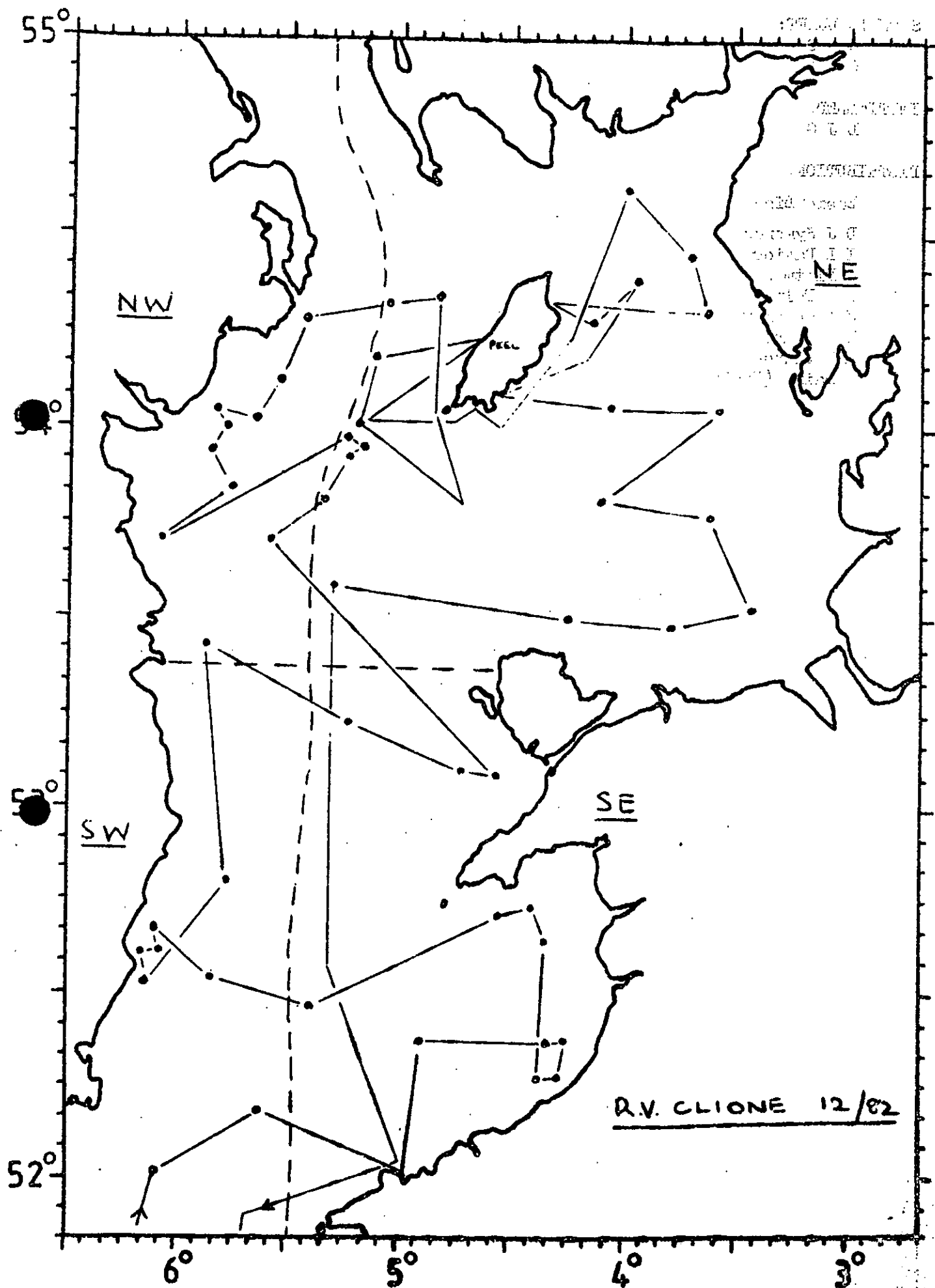
Aim 2. Stomach contents of 2028 fish from 28 species were examined. As in previous surveys, the main food component was crustacean and little evidence of predation on the young of commercial fish was obtained.

Aim 3. The Cardigan Bay survey was completed. Fish catches were small, the most common commercial species being plaice, dabs, whiting and mackerel; a few rays were also taken.

Aim 4. Due to the adverse weather conditions towards the end of the cruise, the Celtic Sea survey was abandoned.

Aim 5. A sample of plaice was collected for AEP 2, Burnham-on-Crouch from Liverpool Bay.

D J Symonds
4 October 1982



SEEN IN DRAFT:

G R O

G F L

INITIALLED:

D J G

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +

D J Symonds (2)

I L Davies

S Flatman

D W Palmer

J L Coleman

D B Bennett

K M Brander

R Bains (Italy)

END OF DRAFT