

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

1982 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CLIONE: CRUISE 16

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

STAFF:

R G Houghton

M W Easey

Mrs M Boon

S M Stevens

M Macdonald (Lowestoft Fisheries Office)

DURATION:

Left Lowestoft 1000h 2 December 1982

Arrived Lowestoft 1700h 14 December

(All times are Greenwich Mean Time)

LOCALITY:

Eastern English Channel

AIMS:

1. To carry out a groundfish survey of the eastern English Channel.
2. To carry out a TTN survey for herring larvae in the eastern English Channel and southern North Sea.
3. To collect and freeze a variety of fish for the fish identification course.

NARRATIVE:

CLIONE left Lowestoft at 1000h, 2 December and steamed south to the first trawl survey station at the Bullock Bank. This was completed early on 3 December; four more stations were completed along the Sussex coast on the same day. Heavy gear damage occurred south of the Royal Sovereign light vessel which was repaired during the afternoon. Five stations were completed on 4 December along the west Sussex coast and west of the Isle of Wight, and three stations off Cherbourg and in the Bay of the Seine on 5 December. CLIONE anchored for the night off Le Havre and continued with the survey off Cap d'Antiferon 6 December; 5 hauls were completed. The French coastal stations were successfully completed on 7 December near Boulogne and CLIONE steamed to Deal Roads to shelter from a westerly gale. The vessel remained at anchor from 1900h 7 December until 2010h 8 December. It seemed likely that a lull would occur and so CLIONE steamed towards the next station in mid-Channel during the night. The weather did not improve, however, and so CLIONE continued westwards in heavy seas to seek a lee off the Isle of Wight. She anchored at 1200h 9 December in Sandown Bay but soon had to move to St Helens Roads. Winds of up to 70 knots were experienced.

CLIONE left the anchorage at 0400h 11 December and completed 5 stations in mid-Channel. Heavy gear damage was experienced at one station. The trawl survey was finally completed at 1700h on 12 December; 4 stations having been worked during the day of Beachy Head.

The tin tow net (TTN) was calibrated between 1830 and 2000h 12 December and the plankton grid started at 2030h. The grid was completed without a break by 0930h 14 December and CLIONE steamed to Lowestoft where she docked at 1700h.

RESULTS:

1. 30 valid trawl stations were completed; all fish were identified counted and weighed; plaice, sole, cod and whiting were measured and otolith samples were obtained from the plaice and sole. Young red mullet were remarkably abundant in most areas and the survey was notable for the total absence of herring. As usual, poor cod and pout whiting were the most abundant species; good quantities of plaice were caught particularly off the R. Somme and in mid-Channel and were in spawning condition. Good hauls of sole were obtained off the Sussex and Hampshire coasts.
2. 23 TTN stations were completed, herring larvae were abundant at several stations in the eastern Channel.
3. A variety of fish species were returned to the Laboratory for the fish identification course.

R G Houghton
15 December 1982

SEEN IN DRAFT: JRF

INITIALED: GFL

DISTRIBUTION:

- Basic List+
- R G Houghton
- M W Easey
- S Stevens
- M J Boon
- M McDonald
- Foreign Office
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Stn. 3 invalid, repeated at stn. 32
" 25 " " " 26

51°

50°

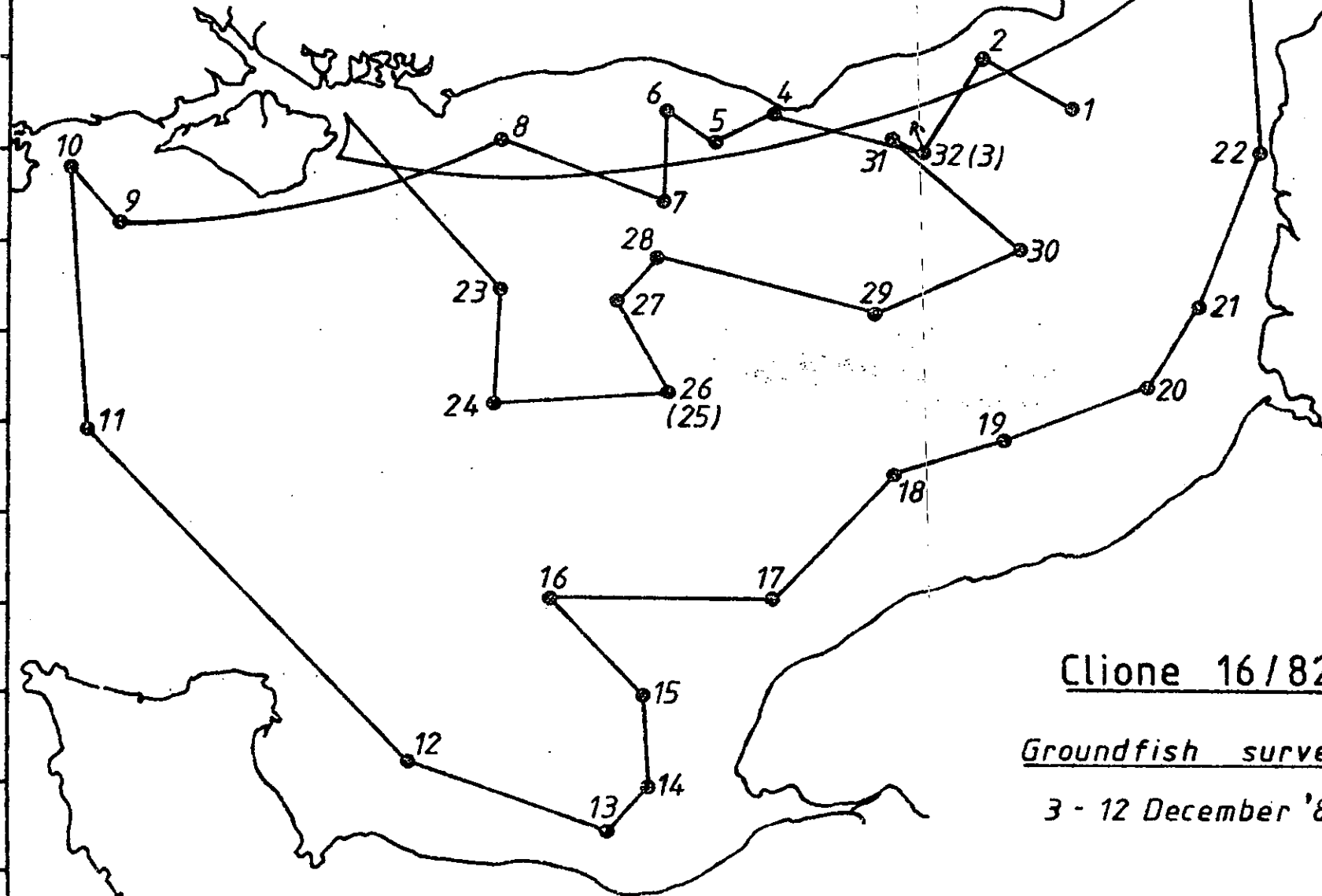
2°

1°

0°

1°

2°



Clione 16/82

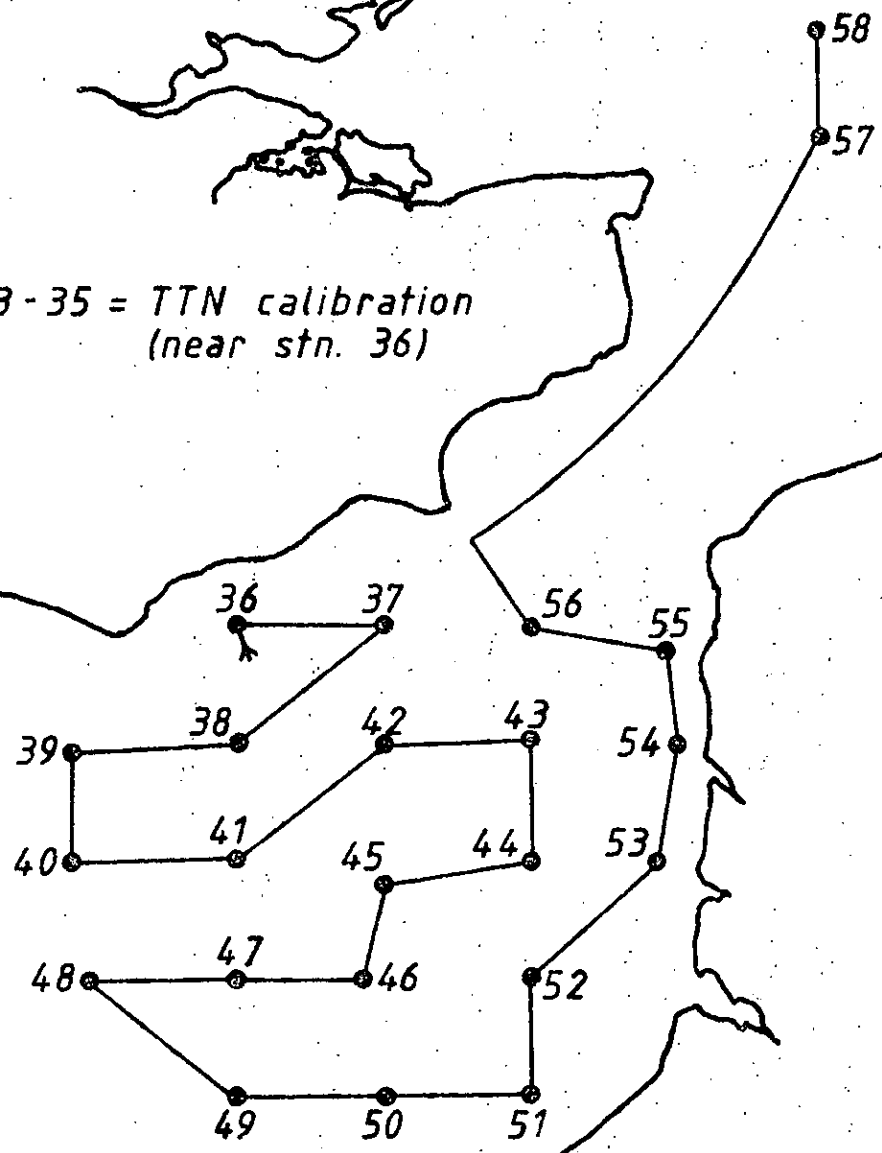
Groundfish survey

3 - 12 December '82

Stn. 33 - 35 = TTN calibration
(near stn. 36)

51°

50°



Clione 16/82

T T N survey
12 - 14 December '82

0°

1°

2°