

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

1978 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: R V CLIONE: CRUISE 2

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

STAFF: R Houghton
C Whiting
M White
R Cross
Mrs M Boon
Miss M Davies

DURATION: Left Lowestoft 1500 h 2 February
Arrived Lowestoft 0930 h 11 February
(All times are GMT)

LOCALITY: English Channel and North Sea

AIMS:

- 1 To tag spawning cod in the eastern English Channel, Southern Bight and middle North Sea (migration - Mr Houghton).
- 2 To collect 15 ripe female and 5 ripe male plaice and return them alive to Lowestoft (genetics - Mr D Thompson)
- 3 To collect 10 large and preferably spent plaice and return them alive to Lowestoft (fish physiology - Dr M Greer Walker)
- 4 To collect approx 500 plaice eggs and deliver them to Lowestoft (television film - Mr J Nichols)
- 5 To obtain length and girth measurements of cod, haddock and whiting in the North Sea and English Channel. (North Sea Roundfish Working Group - Mr C Macer)
- 6 To freeze a variety of fish specimens and deliver to Lowestoft (Fish Identification Course - Mr R Blacker)

NARRATIVE

CLIONE left Lowestoft at 1500 h 2 February and sailed south to the Bullock Bank in the English Channel. Fishing commenced at 0640 h 3 February using a 78 foot headline Granton trawl with 15 inch rubber rollers in the bosom, no bridles and no blinder or cover on the 80 mm meshed codend. Good weather allowed continuous fishing for spawning cod in the area between Beachy Head and the Somme estuary until 1700 h 5 February.

CLIONE sailed overnight into the Southern Bight and fished between North Hinder and the Brown Ridges on 6 and 7 February before going in to Lowestoft to put a crew member ashore via the z-boat at 1500 h 7 February. Fishing recommenced that evening near the Brown Ridges and continued, with a break for bad weather on 9 February, until 2030 h 10 February. The final five hauls were successful in locating mature plaice to the north of North Hinder. Two 2 m ring net stations were completed by 0130 h 11 February after which CLIONE sailed for Lowestoft and docked at 0930 h.

RESULTS

1 In 56 one-hour hauls a total of 1084 cod were caught. The majority of these were immature 2 year old fish (range 29 to 55, mode 43 cm), only 42 were certain mature fish longer than 60 cm. 596 cod were tagged including 40 over 60 cm. Concentrations of spawning fish were not located despite the fact that fishing took place over most of the grounds over which cod eggs have been found to be concentrated in the past. The final haul at 52°08'N, 3°15'E was the only haul in which spawning fish predominated and these were mainly small males.

2 and 3. 23 live plaice longer than 30 cm were returned to Lowestoft. Several of these were ripe males or females and a few large spent fish were obtained.

4 About 500 plaice eggs were collected and delivered to Lowestoft.

5 Length-girth measurements were obtained from cod and whiting in the North Sea (the request arrived after CLIONE had left the Channel). Girth over length averaged 0.512 for whiting (n = 56, s = 0.044) and 0.518 for cod (n = 66, s = 0.032). Only 2 haddock were caught.

6 Large plaice, dabs, sole, lemon sole, cod, whiting, pout whiting and poor cod were collected. Mixed samples of small fish could not be obtained because a blinder was not used.

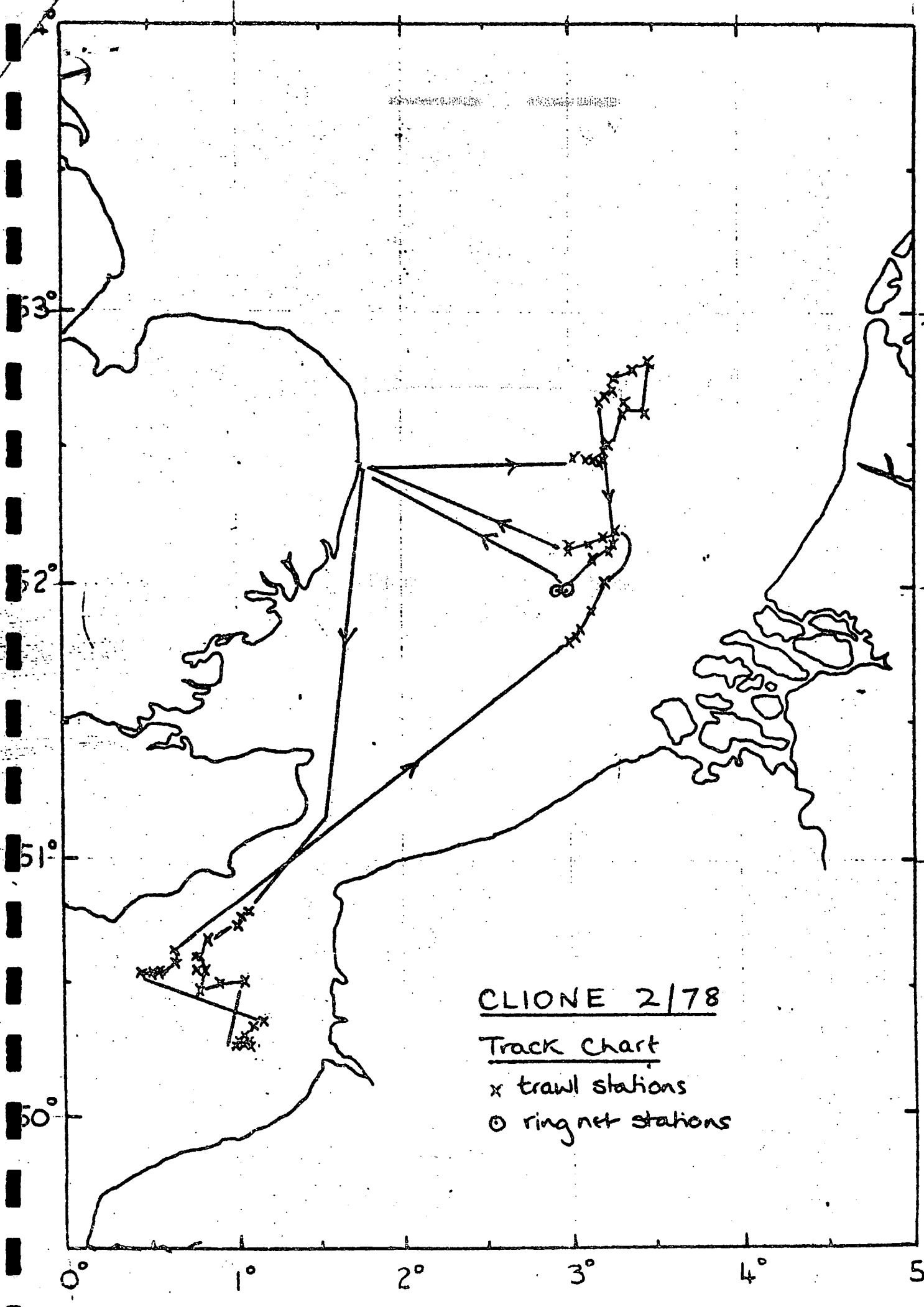
R G Houghton
20 February 1978

SEEN IN DRAFT: JRF
GFL

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List
R Houghton
C Whiting
M White
R Cross
Mrs M Boon
Miss M Davies



CLIONE 2/78

Track Chart

x trawl stations

o ring net stations