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

1987 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CLIONE: CRUISE 7 PART A
(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author).

STAFF

C T Macer
P M Hudson
J M Last
C L Whiting
R A Ayres
Mrs G Haynes

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1500h 21 May.
Arrived North Shields 1200h 28 May.
All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY

Central North Sea - north-east coast of England

AIMS

1. To carry out a plankton survey in order to estimate the production of Nephrops larvae.
2. To take additional plankton samples in areas of highest larvae abundance; to estimate haul to haul and spatial variability.
3. To trawl for adult Nephrops and to sample the catch for length, weight, fecundity and maturity.

NARRATIVE

RV CLIONE sailed at 1500h 21 May and proceeded to the first plankton station off Flamborough Head, which was reached at 0920h 22 May when the survey was commenced. Plankton sampling was temporarily interrupted for 7 hours on 25 May while a fault in the telemetry system was investigated and during this time a trawl haul was made off North Shields. The main plankton grid comprising 68 stations was completed at 0945h 26 May and a secondary grid of 12 stations covering 3 rectangles where larvae had been located was then commenced. The secondary grid was completed at 2310h 26 May and the ship then set course for the trawling grounds. Fishing commenced at 0635 h 27 May and 6 hauls were made that day. Two more hauls were made the following day before RV CLIONE docked at North Shields at 1200 h 28 May.

RESULTS

1. Small numbers of stage 1 Nephrops larvae were located in a small area between 54°40' and 55°00'N, and 01°00'W and 00°50'W.

2. A total of 270 adult Nephrops were obtained for biological examination from 10 hauls (11½ hours fishing).
3. Samples of long rough dabs were measured and preserved from all trawl hauls for Mr Ntiba.
4. The surface CTD was run continuously and CTD profiles were also obtained on each plankton station.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Two large depressors were lost from the high speed tow net (HSTN) during the survey and it is recommended that the method of attachment should be changed. After the loss of the second depressor, the two small depressors remaining were attached but the dive profiles were unsatisfactory.
2. Trouble was experienced from the telemetry system on the HSTN and this was traced to a fault in the cable, possibly as a result of overloading during multinet trials immediately prior to the cruise.
3. Data from the HSTN stations were logged on the HP1000 computer, though this was not possible for the last 10 stations, due to problems with the equipment.

C T Macer
8 June 1987

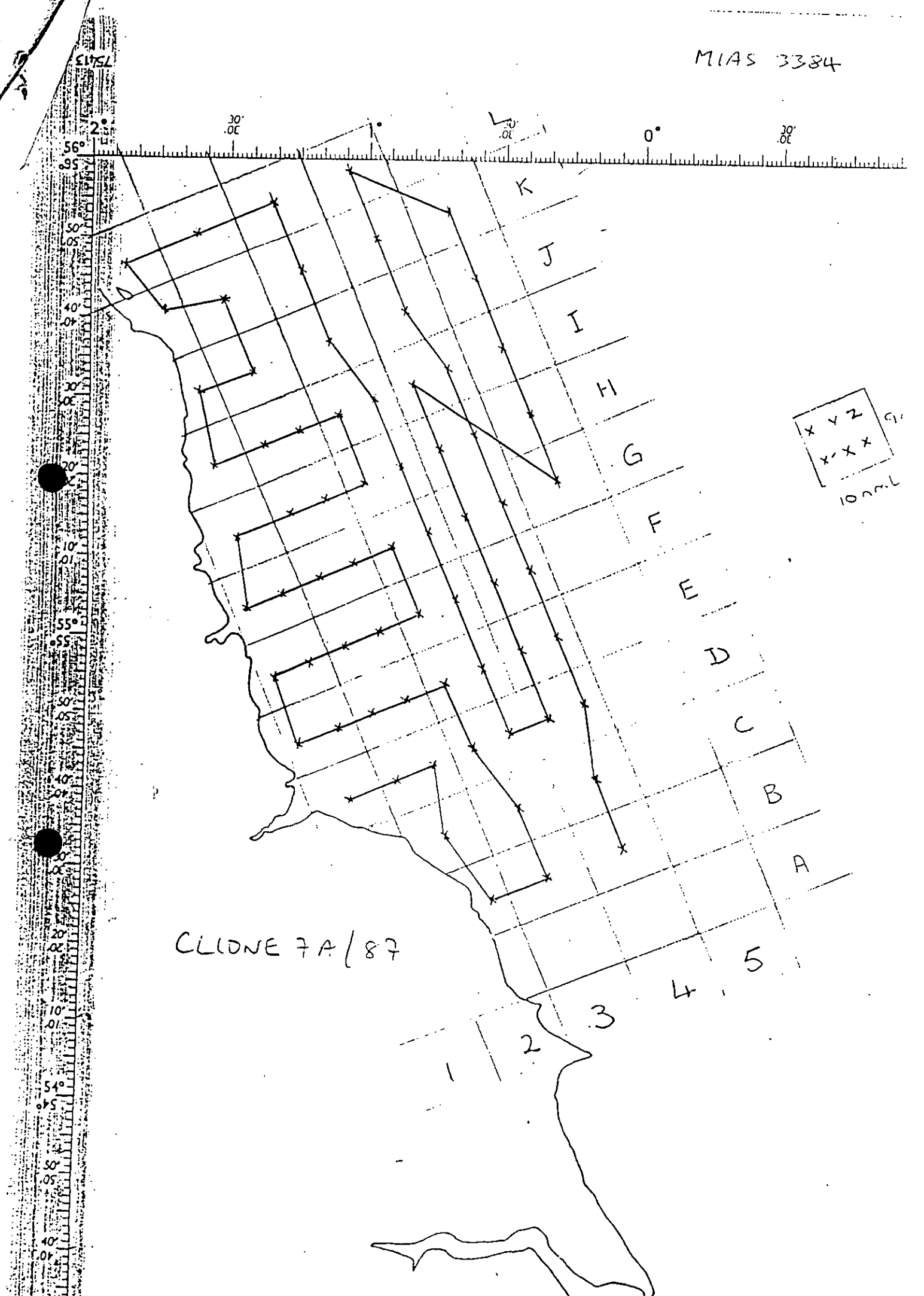
SEEN IN DRAFT: James French - Master

INITIALLED: DJG

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +
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