

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

1984 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

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

STAFF:

J D Riley      SIC  
R S Millner  
B Mumford  
B Riches  
T Watson  
C L Whiting

DURATION:

17-25 June

Left Southampton 0800 hrs 17 June  
Docked Lowestoft 0630 hrs 25 June

All times GMT

LOCALITY:

Eastern English Channel, southern North Sea - west of 2°E

AIMS:

1. To survey the eastern English Channel and part of the southern North Sea for sole egg abundance using the MAFF 53 cm plankton sampler. This is part of the fourth survey of the ICES coordinated programme.
2. To test a prototype, discrete plankton sampler.

NARRATIVE:

Staff travelled to Southampton on 16 June by official vehicle.

After leaving Southampton, the plankton sampling grid of stations was started off Dungeness at 1500 hrs 17 June and completed at 0300 hrs 24 June in Bridlington Bay (See track plot attached). The survey was interrupted only to pick up additional formalin at Lowestoft on 20 June and for a cable repair on 22 June. The gear trials were carried out in Bridlington Bay and on the passage to Lowestoft at the end of the cruise.

RESULTS

1. The grid of 89 stations was completed. The samples, taken towards the end of the sole spawning season, seem on first examination to include low numbers of sole eggs. Some were caught however in the Baie de Somme, Norfolk Banks and off Maplethorpe.

A thermocline had developed towards the northern end of the grid, further than 15 mls offshore and south to 53°45'N, of a maximum intensity of 4.8°C.

The intensity of blooms of Phaeocystis, particularly in areas of lower salinity, required that a mesh of ~~500~~  $\mu\text{m}$  was used instead of the 300  $\mu\text{m}$  used elsewhere. The modified flowmeter worked reliably throughout.

2. The prototype discrete sampler was assembled and the electrical and mechanical mechanisms checked on deck. On deployment at 3 knots the mechanism worked correctly but the net suspending wires were inadequate and several parted on taking up the weight of the net in fishing position. Major modifications to the rig will be proposed to the development team.

J D Riley  
2 July 1984

SEEN IN DRAFT:

JRF  
RCN

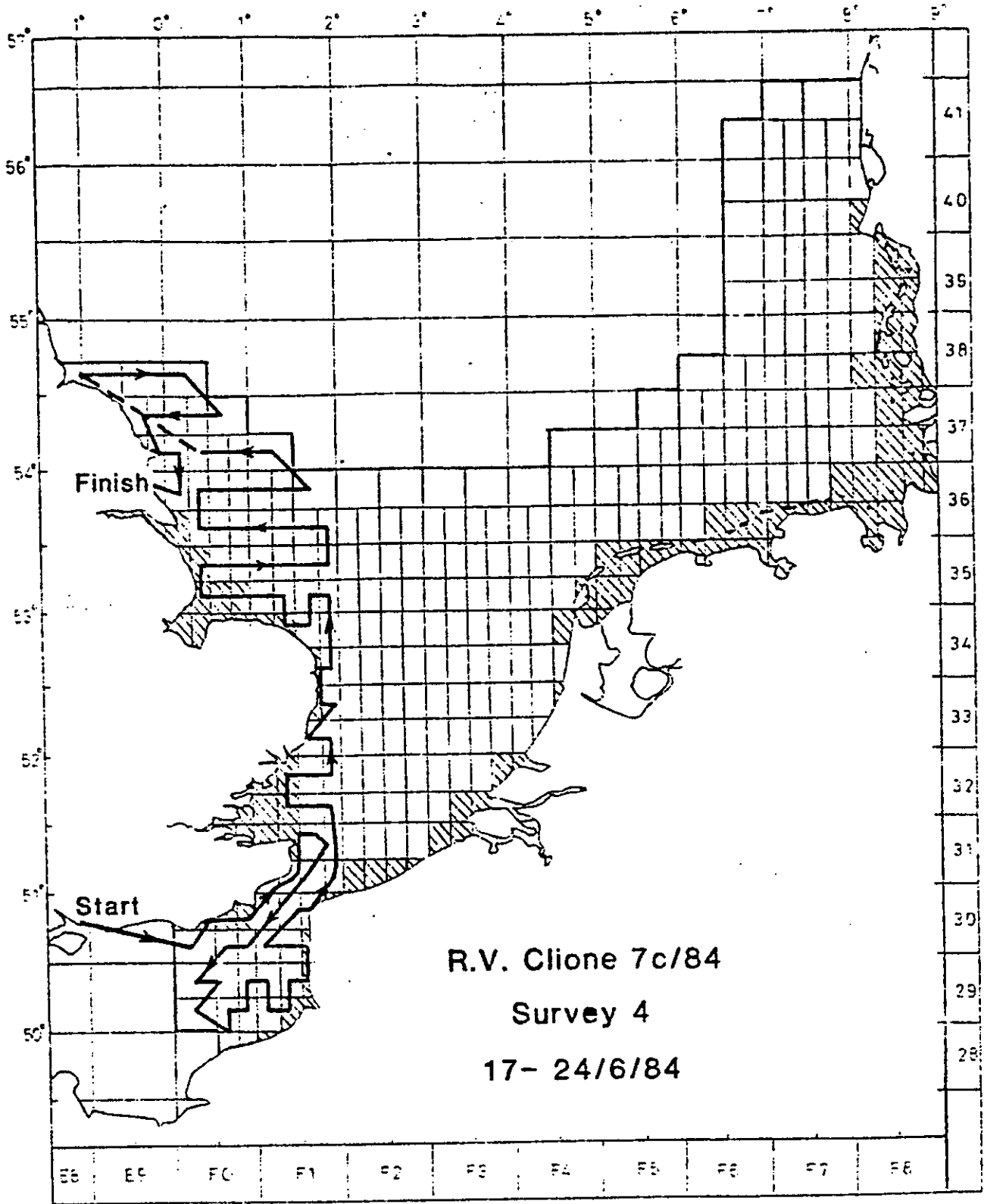
INITIALLED:

DJG

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +

J D Riley  
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R.V. Clione 7c/84

Survey 4

17-24/6/84