

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
FISHERIES LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK NR33 0HT

1990 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORYSTES: CRUISE 8A

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

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DURATION: Left Lowestoft 0815 h 22 June
 Docked Falmouth 0815 h 2 July

All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY: Bristol Channel, English Channel

AIMS:

1. To carry out a plankton survey to assess sole egg production in the Trevoise Head spawning area.
2. To carry out a plankton survey in the western English Channel to assess the distribution and abundance of edible crab larvae.
3. To continue investigation of sole and plaice catch rates over a 24-hour period, and obtain otoliths to supplement market sampling information.
4. To continue loading CORYSTES 10/89 GFS data into the HP1000 database.

NARRATIVE:

CORYSTES sailed from Lowestoft on the morning tide of 22 June, and commenced the Bristol Channel high speed tow net (HSTN) survey at 1930 h on 23 June. Apart from a brief detour to St Ives to pick up a crew member, the survey continued until 0800 h on 28 June when CORYSTES commenced beam trawling off Trevoise Head. On completion of the 24 hour period, the remaining stations south of the trawling position were worked, and course was set for Mounts Bay and the start of the western English Channel HSTN grid. On completion of the first station at 1600 h, the health of one of the scientific staff gave cause for concern, and medical advice was sought. The master was advised to land the member of staff as soon as was practicable, and CORYSTES made all speed to Falmouth. The HSTN grid was resumed at 2040 h, and stations in the NW sector of the grid were completed before CORYSTES moved into the French EEZ at 0800 h on 30 June. Three stations were worked in deteriorating weather conditions, before a SW gale forced the ship to abandon the fourth station. With no prospects of improvement that day, CORYSTES steamed north to work the remaining inshore stations in more sheltered positions. Strong winds prevented further work

on the offshore stations until 1800 h on 1 July, when the survey was resumed. CORYSTES docked at Falmouth on the morning of 2 July for the changeover of scientific staff.

RESULTS:

Aim 1: All 84 stations of the plankton grid were sampled. Surface salinity, temperature, chlorophyll 'a' and light were monitored continuously throughout, and surface salinity samples were taken at each station to calibrate both the surface unit and the profiling unit on the plankton sampler.

Aim 2: Twenty-one stations of the VIIe plankton grid were sampled. Measurements of salinity, temperature, chlorophyll 'a' and light were recorded as in Aim 1.

Aim 3: Eight 1-hour tows and one half-hour tow were made at the Trevoze Head ground, using the 4 m beam trawl. Catches of sole and plaice were light, and consisted mainly of spent/recovering fish. The numbers of otoliths collected are shown below.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number taken</u>
Plaice	12
Sole	23
Lemon sole	57
Megrim	29
Cod	1
Hake	1
<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>	2

Aim 4: All but two of the CORYSTES 10/89 GFS VIIIf and VIIe trawl stations were loaded into the database. An unresolved database fault prevented completion of this aim pending return to Lowestoft.

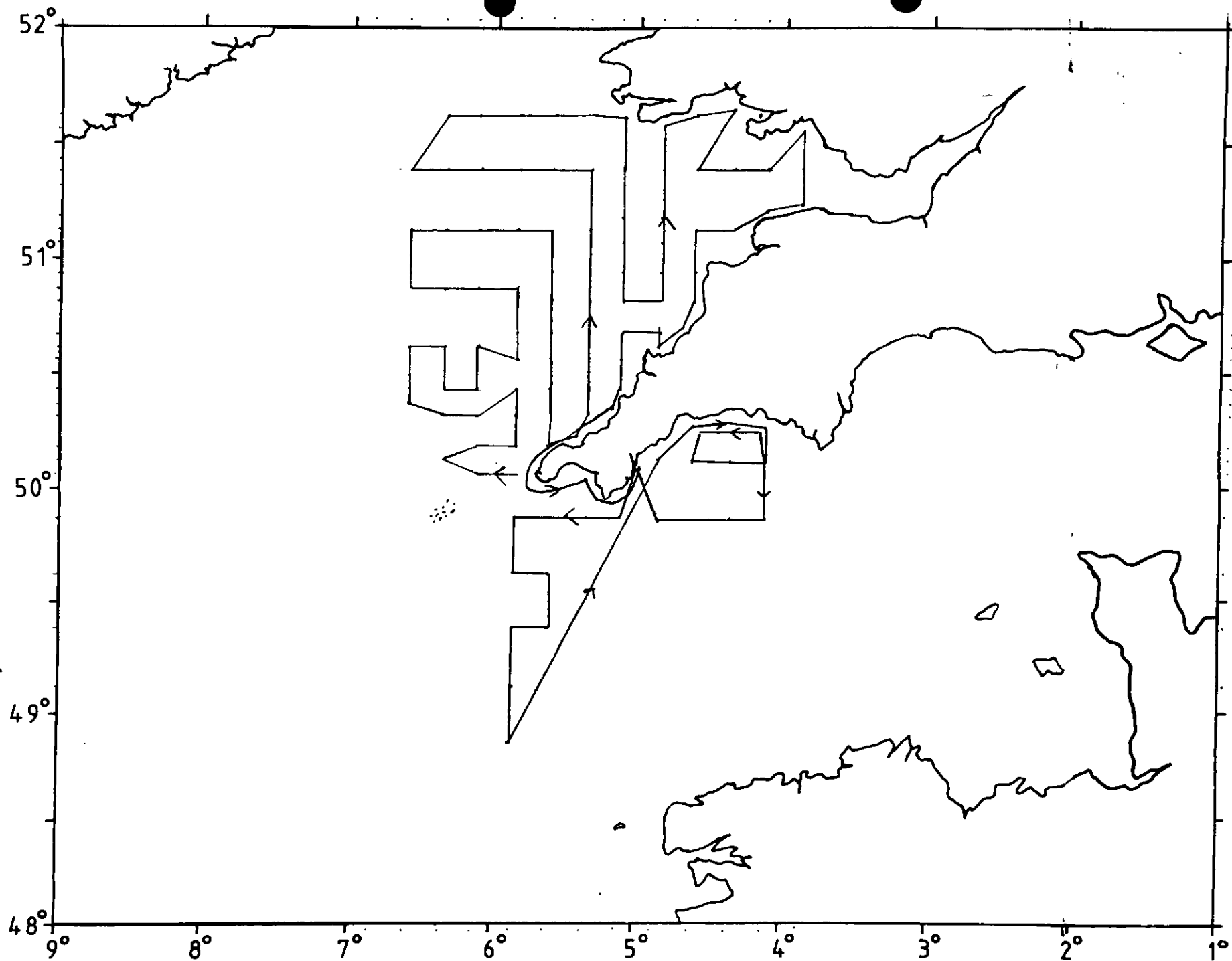
S Flatman
2 July 1990

Seen in draft: R Taylor (Master)
M Reynolds (Fishing Skipper)

Initialled: JWH

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list +
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CORYSIES
8A/90

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CHART