SW

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

1978 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORELLA: CRUISE 2
(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF

P O Johnson
M R Vince
W A Dawson
H R Stewardson
R W Overy

DURATION

Sailed Lowestoft 1000 h 25 January

Arrived Lowestoft 0700 h 6 February

LOCALITY

North Sea - NE coast, Farne Islands - Wash

AIMS

1. To carry out an acoustic integrator survey for sprat within an area between the Farne Islands and Wash, extending up to 50 miles off the coast.

2. To sample any major concentrations located with mid-water trawl and plot their distributions in finer detail.

3. To collect various species of fish (particularly sprat, small herring and small gadoids) deep-frozen for fish identification courses (Mr R W Blacker).

NARRATIVE

Adverse weather delayed sailing by one day and CORELLA left Lowestoft at 1000 h 25 January proceeding to the Wash area where the integrator survey commenced at 1700 h.

The survey in this region was successfully completed on 26 January and over the following two days extended north to Tees Bay where deteriorating weather on 28 January caused the vessel to seek shelter in Sunderland where she remained weatherbound until 1900 h 30 January.

The survey then continued northwards to the Farne Islands but was again interrupted on 1 February by a south easterly gale which stopped operations until 0900 h 2 February. The survey subsequently concentrated within the coastal water belt up to 15 miles off the coast between Sunderland and Whitby until 4 February when a severe southerly gale developed and prevented work until 0700 h 5 February.

The final stage of the survey covered the coastal area from Scarborough to Flamborough Head and was completed near the Outer Dowsing at 2130 h 5 February. CORELLA then returned to Lowestoft docking there at 0700 h 6 February.

RESULTS

1. Bad weather curtailed the survey to a considerable extent and it was not possible to survey the offshore area as originally planned. However, it became evident that most of the sprat concentrations were within 15 miles of the coast and the survey concentrated within this region.

   An extremely wide distribution of low density traces were found within this coastal belt extending almost continuously from about Blyth in the north down to the Humber and also within the Wash. The densest concentrations of sprat were found in deeper water about 8-14 miles off the coast between Blyth and Sunderland and most of the commercial fishing activity was noted in this sector. Other denser patches were located closer inshore between Whitby and Flamborough.

2. Seven mid-water trawling stations were carried out in areas of higher trace density and these were found to be predominantly of entirely sprat. Samples were deep-frozen for laboratory analysis.

3. Samples of small herring and small gadoids were also deep-frozen for the fish identification course.

P O Johnson
7 February 1978

SEEN IN DRAFT: JEWB Captain
RCN Fishing Skipper

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list +

P O Johnson
M R Vince
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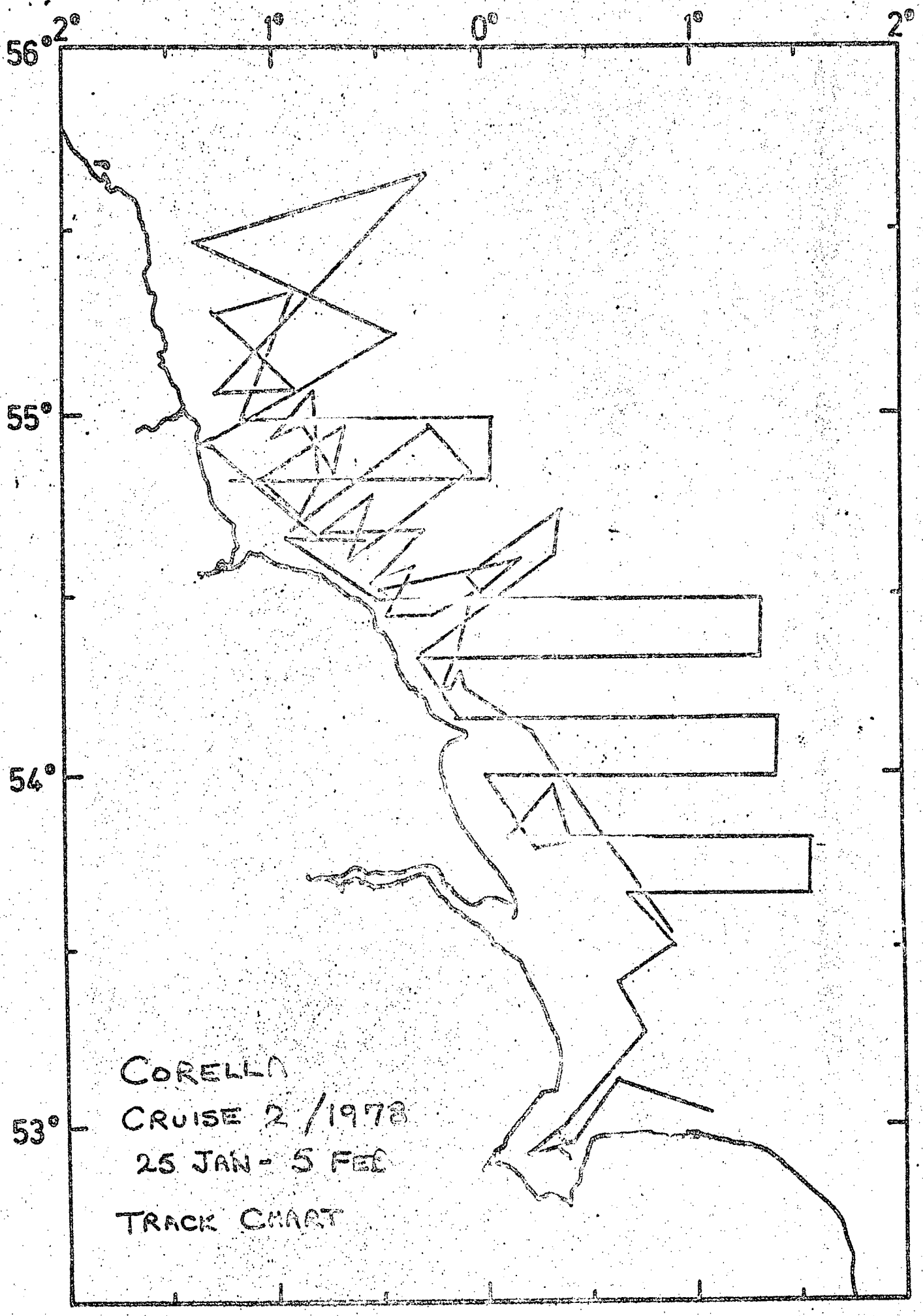
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2°
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CORELLA
CRUISE 2/1978
25 JAN - 5 FEB
TRACK CHART