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IN CONFIDENCE - NOT TO BE QUOTED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE LABORATORY

FRV EXPLORER

12ER82

CRUISE 12/82

REPORT:

9-21 December 1982

OBJECTIVES

1. To carry out a survey of the stocks of spurdogs to the north and west of Scotland.
2. To tag spurdogs.
3. To collect adult sandeels (Ammodytes marinus) for fecundity studies.

NARRATIVE

On completion of loading scientific gear and taking on fuel "Explorer" sailed from Aberdeen at 1930 hours on 9 December 1982. Work commenced on the morning of 10 December and was continued throughout the survey area until 18 December when adverse weather conditions forced "Explorer" to seek shelter. Continued gales prevented any further work and "Explorer" returned to Aberdeen at 0600 hours on 21 December 1982.

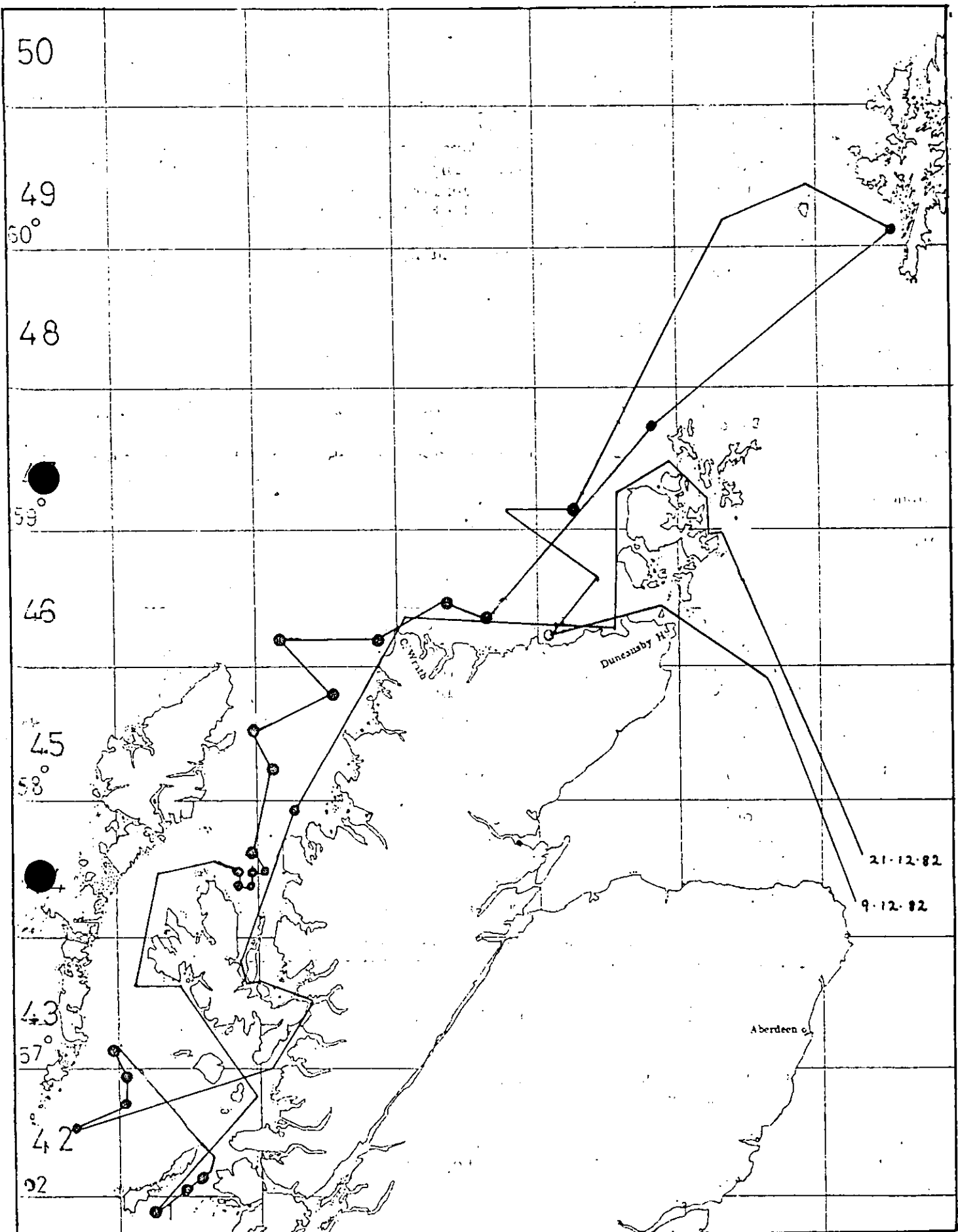
The areas to the west of Orkney, the North Coast, North and South Minches were surveyed, no work was carried out in the areas to the east of Orkney, at Fair Isle or to the north of Shetland. One attempt to work the latter area on 11 December was aborted due to deteriorating weather conditions, a compensatory haul however was made in the lee of mainland Shetland in the Scalloway Deep.

A total of 27 trawl hauls were completed; one haul, however, was foul and has been omitted from the results of the survey. At all tagging positions spurdogs were tagged using 2 Howitt tags affixed by a T-headed attachment, one tag being applied to the base of each of the two dorsal fins.

RESULTS

The distribution of spurdogs, sex ratios, numbers tagged and stomached are summarised by sampling area.

Sampling Area	No. of Hauls	Mean Catch Rate (Nos/hour)	Nos. of Males	Nos. of Females	Ratio of Male : Female	Nos. Tagged	Nos. Stomached
Orkney +) N.Coast)	7	74	509	8	98 : 2	462	61
N.Minch	11	157	1655	77	96 : 4	970	256
S.Minch	7	149	1034	6	99 : 1	767	218
Shetland	1	0	0	0	:	0	0
	<u>26</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>3198</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>97 : 3</u>	<u>2199</u>	<u>535</u>



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