

IN CONFIDENCE: Not to be quoted without reference to the Laboratory

FRV 'Explorer'  
Cruise 12/83

REPORT  
5-21 December 1983

Objectives:

1. To investigate the distribution of hydrocarbons in water and sediments around selected North Sea oil installations and the Forth Forties line (Part 1).
2. To trawl for commercial fish species for AHH analysis and taste panel assessment. (Part 1).
3. To collect live gadoids (Part 2).

Narrative:

Part 1

'Explorer' left Leith at 1600 hours on 5 December after loading trawl gear, scientific equipment, and after personnel had joined the ship from Aberdeen. The ship arrived on station at Bell Rock at 2045 hours. A one hour demersal trawl was taken in the Forth estuary on 6 December and the Forth Forties Line was completed at 0650 on 7 December. Two one hour trawls were taken at Forties and on passage between Forties and Beryl, and 'Explorer' arrived on station at Beryl at 0030 hours on 8 December. Sampling could not commence until 0830 because of adverse weather and due to this continuing a reduced number of stations were sampled until 2130 hours with a one hour trawl taken during the afternoon. Because of persisting adverse weather 'Explorer' made passage to Fetlar to seek shelter. Sampling recommenced in the Thistle/Murchison area at 0830 on 11 December, where a one hour trawl was taken. As the weather conditions were likely to preclude a full sampling at the remaining stations it was decided to attempt only those of greatest interest with the result that four stations were sampled at Brent and three at Ninian and 'Explorer' left the oilfield at 2200 hours on 11 December and headed toward Fair Isle where a one hour 'clean' trawl was taken on 12 December, and then made passage south towards the Moray Firth where a further 'clean' trawl was taken on 13 December. Long lines were laid in an attempt to obtain live gadoids. 'Explorer' docked in Aberdeen at 0900 on 14 December.

Results:

Due to adverse weather conditions the full sampling programme was not completed. However all samples taken were returned to the laboratory in Aberdeen where analyses will be carried out and results available on their completion.

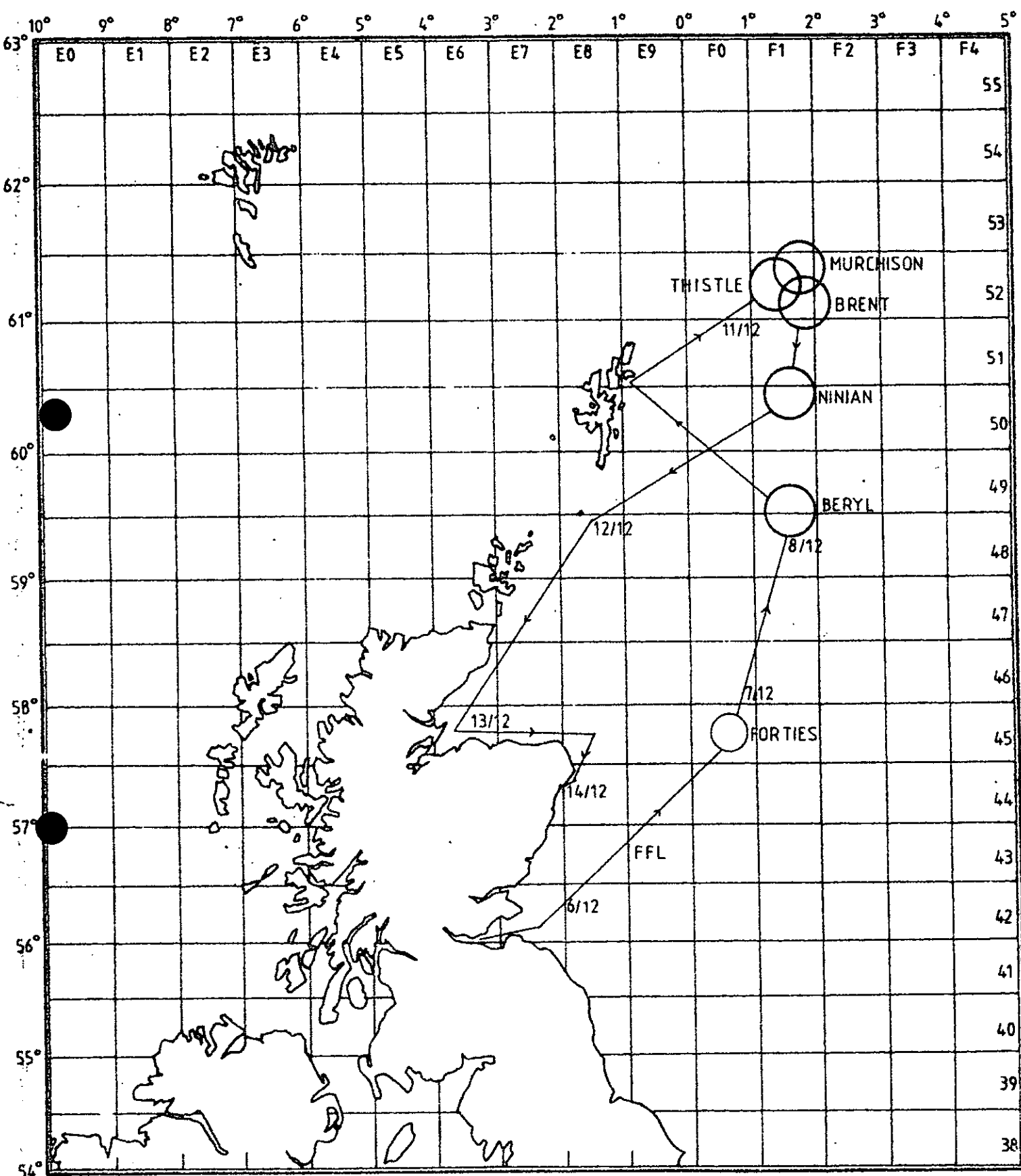
Part 2

Messrs Seaton, Dunn and McLean joined 'Explorer' at 0900 hours on the 15th and the ship sailed mid morning to commence trawling on the east side of the Buchan Deeps. Live haddock and cod from these trawls were successfully landed in Aberdeen on the afternoon of Friday 16th and 'Explorer' immediately sailed for the Moray Firth.

Further small numbers of live haddock and cod were obtained from this area but deteriorating weather conditions and boiler tube problems forced the curtailment of the trawling program and 'Explorer' returned to Aberdeen where she docked at 0100 hours on Monday 19th December.

seen in draft  
A Hall OIC

A M McIntosh  
D D Seaton  
19 December 1983



FRV EXPLORER

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