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CRUISE REPORT

FRV "Explorer"

13 - 15 April 1977

Objectives

To study the horizontal and vertical variability of salinity, temperature, chlorophyll, nitrate and zooplankton along a line from Rattray Head to Fladen.

Narrative

"Explorer" left Aberdeen at 11.00 hrs on 13 April and reached Rattray Head at 15.00 hrs. Two stations were worked in heavy weather when worsening conditions made it dangerous to continue on deck. A course was set along the line to Fladen with instruments continuously monitoring the pumped water supply from 3 m depth. Fladen was reached at 06.00 hrs on 14 April. Severe conditions continued and it proved impossible to maintain a course along the return line to Rattray because of the direction of wind and swell. Several attempts were made during the day to rejoin the line until with time being limited a course was set for Aberdeen. Instruments were run continuously throughout and 'Decca' positions were recorded $\frac{1}{2}$ hourly.

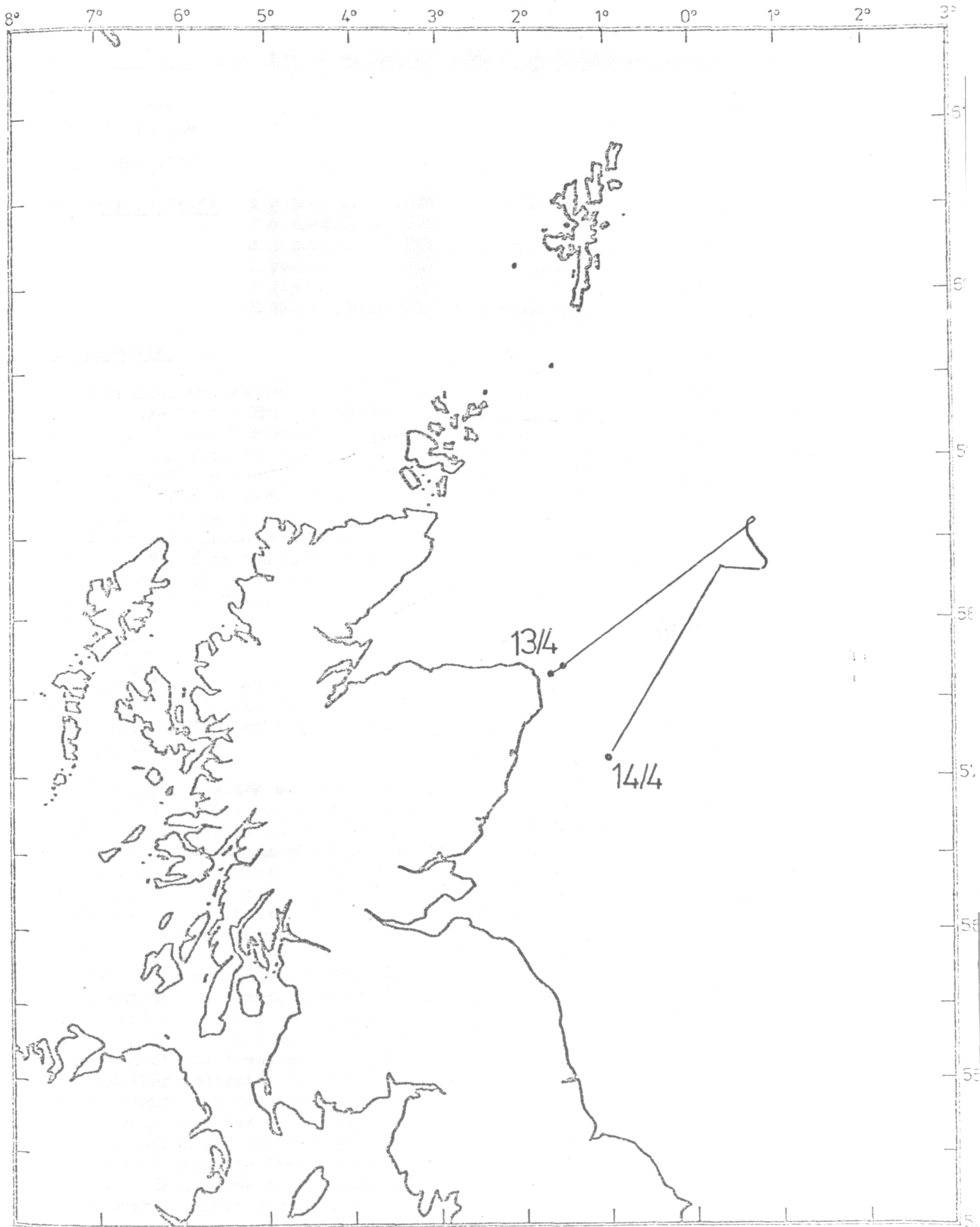
"Explorer" docked at 09.00 hrs on 15 April.

Results

Temperatures at 3 m were between 5.8 and 6.5°C. The two hydro stations₃ showed no vertical stratification. Chlorophylls at 3 m ranged from 1.8 mg/m³ inshore to 0.5 mg/m³. Nitrates were fairly uniform and well below winter values.

I E Baird
23 August 1977

Seen in draft J W Gillon



Explorer 13/4-14/4/77

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