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Cruise Report

FRS EXPLORER

15 July - 2 August 1977

<u>Personnel</u>	S D E Devlin	HSO	In Charge
	S W McMinn	ASO	
	G I Henderson	ASO	
	P K Johnson	ASO	

Objective

To carry out the Faroe pre-recruit demersal fish and environmental surveys.

Narrative

After delays by a boiler fault and crew problems 'Explorer' left Aberdeen pm Friday 15 July.

The trawling survey commenced on the Faroe Bank and continued until a call was made at Lerwick late pm Friday 22 July. It was planned to leave 1000 hours Sunday 24 July, but the ship was held up until 1600 hours on 26 July owing to crew problems.

The trawl survey was resumed and completed on the 1 August. A passage was made for Aberdeen and the ship bunkered and finally docked at 2200 hours Tuesday 2 August.

Results

Trawling

All stations of the trawling survey were occupied using a 48' Aberdeen trawl with a 75 M/M cod-end and small mesh cover. All catches were worked up according to standing instructions. Forty-three hauls were made, including three repeats, of which thirty-eight were valid.

Fishing yielded a variety of the major commercial species and the results are presented as numbers per sub-area per 100 hours fishing in Table I. A comparison with last year's survey showed on Faroe Bank a threefold increase in haddock catch (all size groups combined) a slightly, lower cod catch and a much lower saithe catch. On the Plateau the haddock catch was approximately half, the cod catch 0.7, the saithe catch 1.8 and the whiting catch 1.5 times the 1976 catches.

The industrial species are shown in Table 2. Trisopterus esmarkii was the only species comparable with last year's figures on the Faroe Bank with a drop in catch to 0.7 times. On the Plateau Argentina silus was down to 0.8, T. esmarkii down to .4 and only Micromesistius poutassou showed a rise by 1.6 times of the 1976 figures.

Pollution

Samples of Halibut, Plaice, Ling and Blue Ling and samples of Blue Whiting over the whole size range were taken. All samples were deep frozen.

Endocrinology

Blood samples were taken from, Plaice, L. sole, Co. Dab and Halibut for endocrinological studies at the Laboratory.

S D E DEVLIN

7 September 1977

Seen in draft: W P Watt
Officer in Charge

TABLE 1

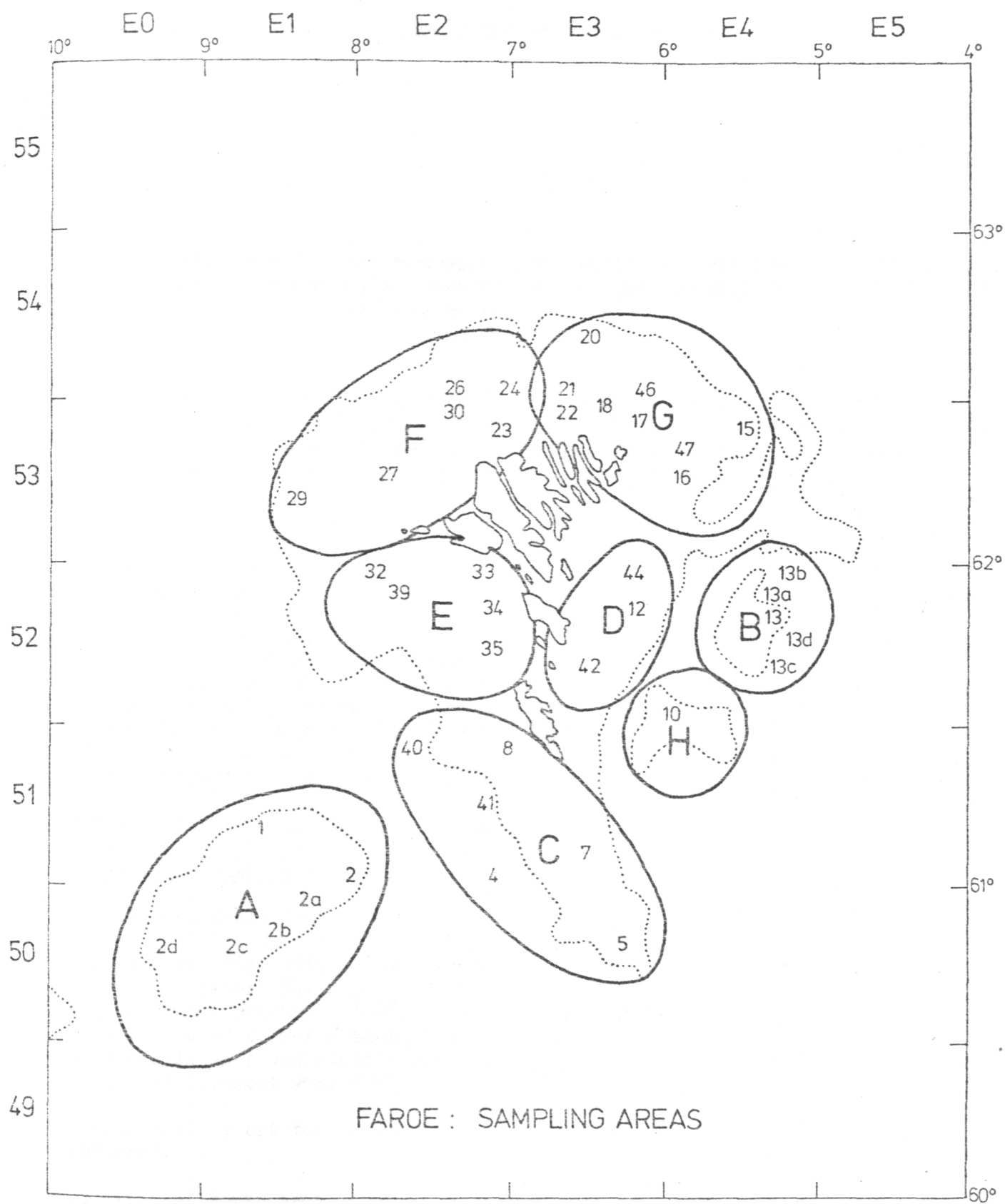
Numbers of major commercial species caught per 10 hours fishing by Faroe routine trawling survey areas

SPECIES	AREA A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Cod	186	72	293	283	483	735	510	310
Haddock	15 328	3 008	687	5 251	5 425	1 095	2 214	1 350
Saithe	14	514	228	11	-	35	78	1 420
Whiting	2	10	23	531	1 390	30	59	10
Halibut	8	2	15	40	3	3	25	-
L. sole	26	22	281	1 575	243	388	640	10
Plaice	-	-	2	11	8	115	194	-
Angler	14	-	2	25	25	5	47	10

TABLE 2

Numbers of industrial species caught per 10 hours fishing by Faroe routine trawling survey areas

SPECIES	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
A. silus	-	246	835	645	2 165	43	2 820	210
M. poutassou	40	2 586	458	687	15 565	57	30	1 340
T. esmarkii	1 806	5 372	2 595	5 832	14 847	5 863	4 816	1 410



FAROE : SAMPLING AREAS

Explorer 15/7 - 2/8/77

6 EP 77