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R1/4

8ER77

Cruise Report

FRS 'Explorer'

6-28 September 1977

Objectives

1. To carry out herring larval surveys off the west coast of Scotland and the north and west coasts of Ireland.
2. To lay current meters.

Narrative

'Explorer' sailed from Aberdeen in the evening of 6 September and made for Barra Head, doing a line of carbon and chlorophyll sampling across the mouth of the Moray Firth. The first current meter was laid off Barra Head in the afternoon of 8 September and the second one off Tory Island in the morning of 9 September. The first herring larval survey was begun at the southern end of the grid on the afternoon of 9 September and was completed by the morning of 16 September except for six stations omitted because of bad weather. 'Explorer' docked in Stornoway on the morning of 16 September and sailed again on the following afternoon. A passage was made to the west coast of Ireland and the second survey began in the evening of 18 September, working northwards, and was completed in the evening of 26 September. 'Explorer' docked in Aberdeen on the afternoon of 27 September.

Results

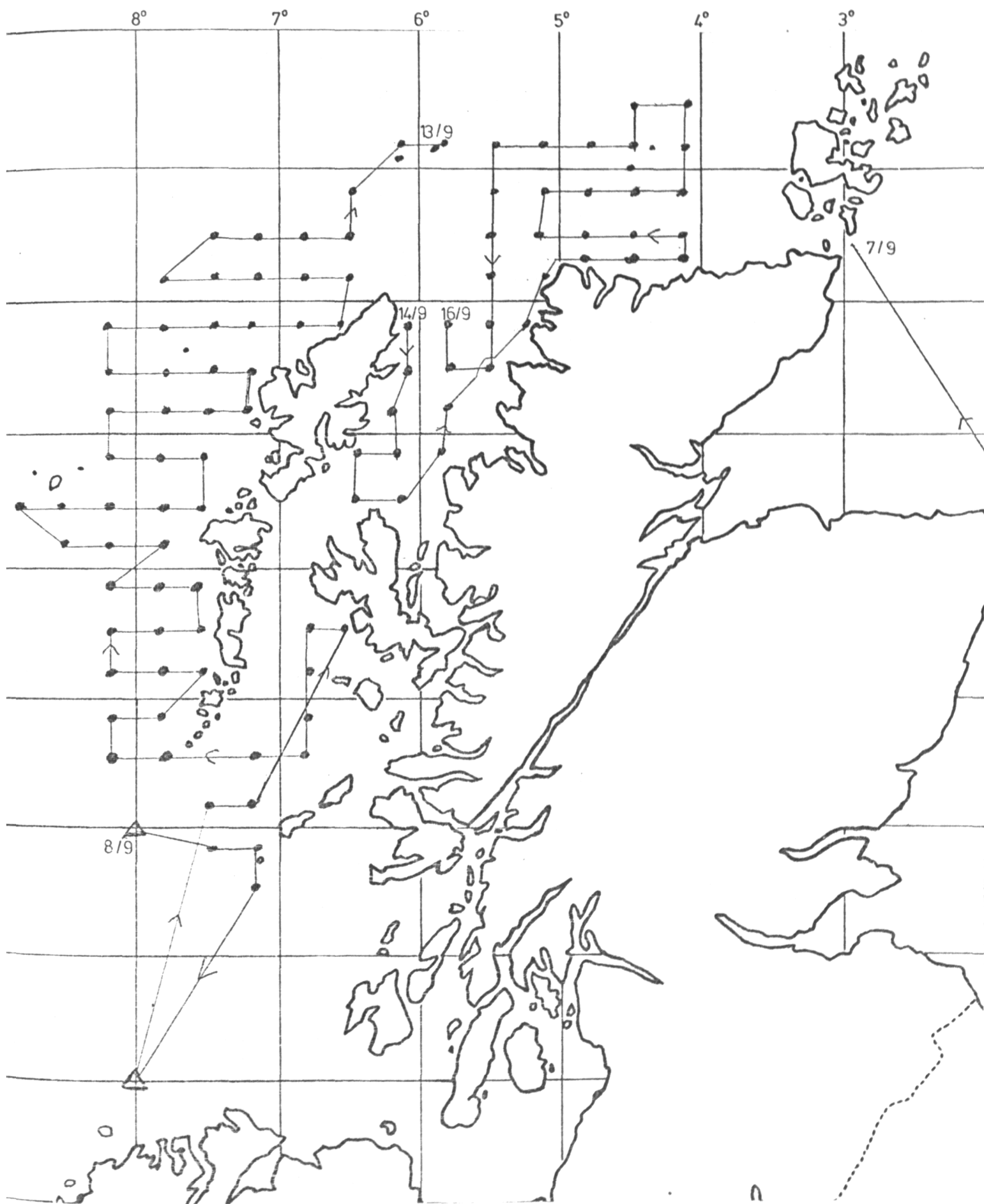
The two current meters were successfully laid and were still functioning when checked during the second survey.

Very few clupeoid larvae were seen during the first survey except for two small concentrations, one between Butt of Lewis and Tiumpán Head and the other around Cape Wrath.

Clupeoid larvae were more plentiful on the second survey. Small concentrations were found off the north coast of Ireland, to the west of Barra and to the west of Uist. Larger concentrations were found over a wide area extending from west of Lewis up round the Butt of Lewis across and into the top of the North Minch, off Cape Wrath and along the north coast to Whiten Head.

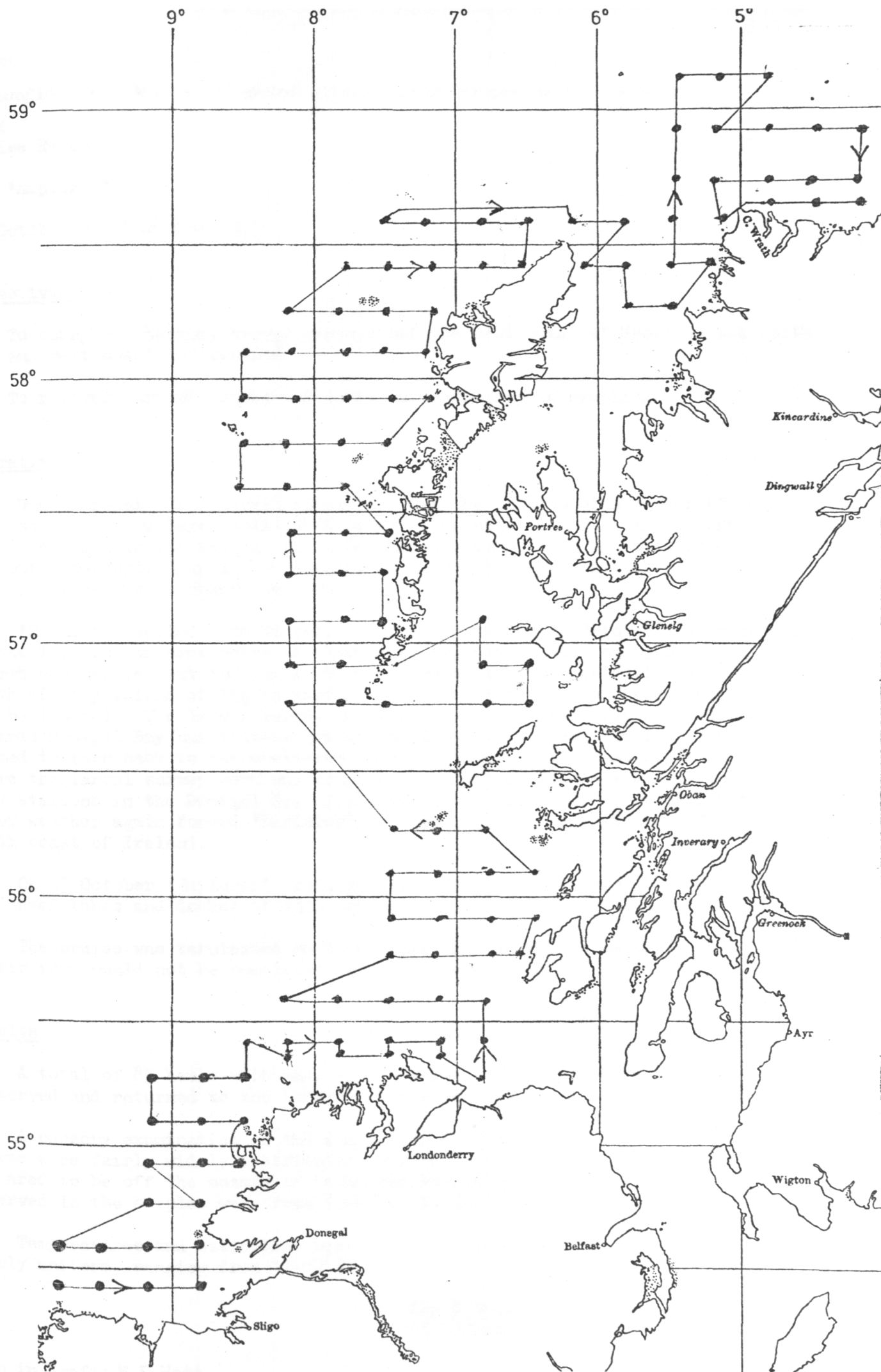
George McPherson
26 October 1977

Seen in draft - W Watts



EXPLORER 7—16/9/77

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EXPLORER 18/- 26/9/77

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