

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

FRV EXPLORER

CRUISE 8/81

8ER81

REPORT:

16 September - 1 October 1981

OBJECTIVE

To take part in the ICES Herring Larval Surveys in the Orkney/Shetland area.

NARRATIVE

Scientific staff joined FRV 'Explorer' at 1200 hrs on 16 September after bunkering, the ship sailed from Aberdeen to commence the survey at Stn 1. After a short delay due to problems with the warp meter the survey was begun at Stn 16. Sampling continued in a northward direction and after sampling the stations to the west of Shetland 'Explorer' proceeded to Scrabster to land the chief engineer on 19 September. Sampling continued to the west and north of Orkney until operations were curtailed due to severe weather at 0750 hrs on 20 September. After sheltering in Scapa Flow the ship proceeded to the Moray Firth area where sampling was recommenced at 1215 hrs on 21 September. Sampling continued in the Moray Firth and east of Orkney until 0730 on 23 September when the ship headed for Kirkwall for the half landing.

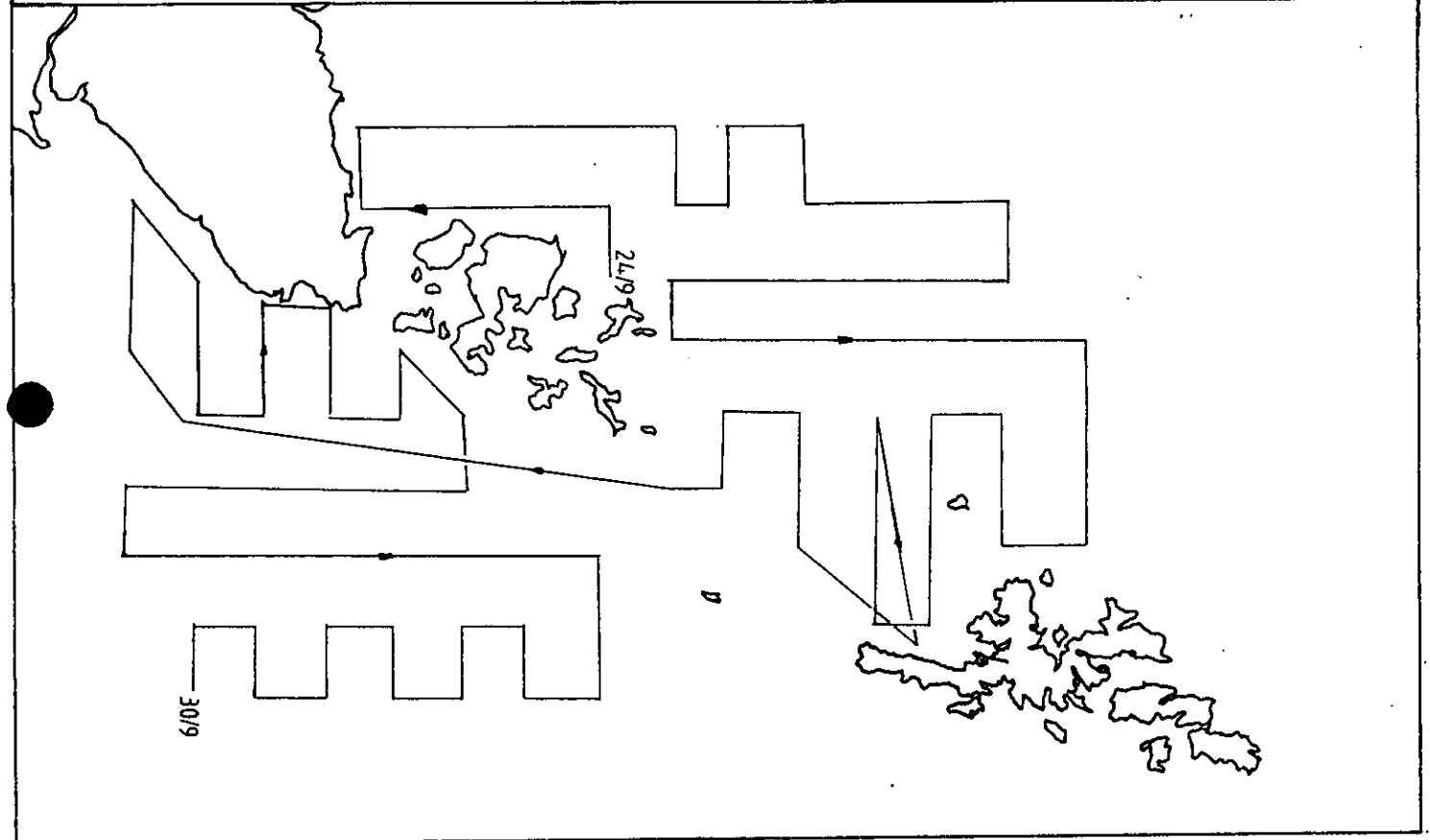
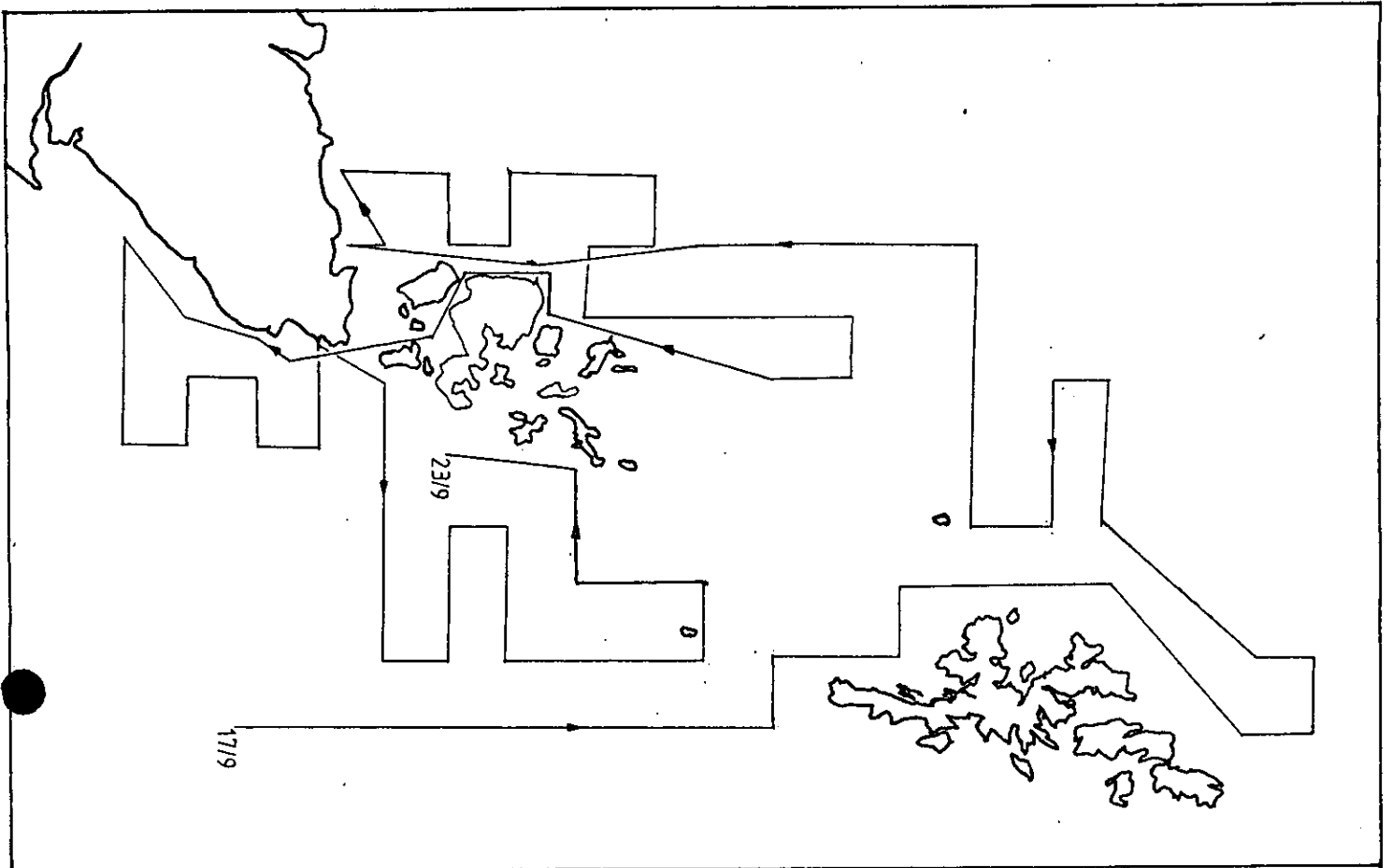
After leaving Kirkwall sampling was restarted at Stn 57 at 1125 hrs on 24 September. Sampling continued to the west and north of Orkney until 2030 hrs on 26 September. After sheltering to the west of Shetland sampling was begun again at Stn 83 at 1700 hrs on 27 September, but further deterioration in the weather again stopped sampling after only six stations. Having dodged south to the Moray Firth sampling was recommenced at Stn 6 at 1525 hrs on 28 September. Sampling continued in the Moray Firth and east of Orkney until 2000 hrs on 30 September when 'Explorer' set course for Aberdeen.

RESULTS

Although detailed analysis of the samples is not yet available visual examination at the time of sampling indicated that small larvae were rather scarce being confined to the inner Moray Firth and west of Orkney. Larger larvae were rather more widely distributed with the main centres of abundance being north and east of Orkney.

David W. McKay
2 November 1981

Seen in draft: T.H. Henderson



FRV Explorer 17/9 — 30/9/81

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