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In confidence: Not to be quoted without reference to the Laboratory

CRUISE REPORT

FRS EXPLORER

22 October - 18 November 1975

Objectives

1. To perform an acoustic and exploratory fishing survey of unexploited stocks to the west of Scotland.
2. To obtain samples of blue whiting for studies on the parasites Anisakis and Diphyllobothrium.

Narrative

Explorer sailed from Aberdeen at 1730 on 22 October and proceeded north to Ronas Voe in Shetland for calibration of the acoustic equipment. Adverse weather conditions prevented adequate calibration but advantage was taken of the relatively sheltered conditions to rig the "delagic" trawl. 'Explorer' then continued north to 61°30'N and commenced the acoustic survey. The survey was conducted as shown on the attached chart. Fishing was carried out where possible to identify the acoustic traces and to provide samples of fish. The acoustic survey was interrupted on 29-30 October in order to despatch samples of blue whiting, from Faroe, to Dr K Anderson in Oslo. 'Explorer' continued the survey until 3 November when a call was made at Stornoway to change personnel and to collect fishing gear. 'Explorer' left Stornoway on 6 November to continue the survey. Following failure of the netsonde equipment on 8 November 'Explorer' proceeded to Broad Bay, Lewis to change over to a demersal trawl and to calibrate the acoustic equipment. During the period 10-12 November 'Explorer' fished along the edge of the continental shelf to the west of St Kilda and transferred blue whiting that were caught to the 'Sir William Hardy' for examination by IRS. The survey was then continued upto 16 November when deteriorating weather conditions prevented further work and 'Explorer' steamed for Aberdeen docking on the morning of 18 November.

Results

Over most of the area surveyed there were very few pelagic traces that could be associated with fish. Very diffuse traces that may have been plankton were recorded over a large part of the area and sampling of these traces by trawl confirmed this impression yielding few or no fish. The densest traces were recorded along the Wyville-Thomson ridge, on the edge of the continental shelf west of St Kilda and on the northern edge of Rockall Bank.

Fishing

Fishing effort was severely limited because of adverse weather conditions, a total of eighteen hauls was made, however, and the catches are shown on the attached table.

J Richards  
17 May 1976

Seen in draft - Capt F Orr

TRAWL CATCHES BY FRV EXPLORER OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 1975.

BASKETS PER HOUR FISHING

Date	Position	Depth (metres)	Industrial Fish		Commercial Fish		Others	Total Catch
			Blue Whiting	Others	Haddock	Others		
24/10(1)	61°10N 01°30W	236	-		-		-	0
27/10(1)	62°35N 08°19W	480	-		-		-	0
28/10(1)	61°19N 08°28W	540	$\frac{1}{2}$		-		-	$\frac{1}{2}$
31/10(1)	60°30N 04°54W	325	$\frac{1}{2}$		-		-	$\frac{1}{2}$
31/10(1)	60°30N 06°32W	311	+ -		-		$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$
8/11(1)	57°59N 09°19W	-		Netsonde Failed				0
10/11(2)	58°03N 09°14W	348	$5\frac{1}{2}$	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$		11
10/11(2)	58°04N 08°52W	264	1	$2\frac{1}{2}$	1	$2\frac{1}{2}$		$7\frac{1}{2}$
11/11(2)	58°02N 09°18W	260	6	3	-	8	1	18
11/11(2)	58°05N 09°07W	247	$4\frac{1}{4}$	3	1	3	-	$11\frac{1}{4}$
11/11(2)	58°03N 09°12W	284	$\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	2	4
12/11(2)	58°07N 09°17W	238	2	2	$\frac{3}{4}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	1	$8\frac{1}{4}$
12/11(2)	58°02N 09°18W	256	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{4}$
12/11(2)	57°58N 09°15W	265	$\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	-		$2\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$
13/11(2)	57°00N 13°40W	368		Foul Haul				0
14/11(2)	57°13N 13°20W	183	-	$\frac{1}{4}$	23	-	$\frac{3}{4}$	24
15/11(2)	58°00N 13°14W	220		Foul Haul				0
15/11(2)	58°12N 13°28W	320	$2\frac{1}{2}$	5	3	1	-	$11\frac{1}{2}$

(1) Delagic trawl

(2) North Sea trawl