

Library

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R1/4  
Cruise Report

AR  
9ER77

FRV 'Explorer'

11 October - 2 November 1977

Objectives

- 1) To carry out herring larval surveys off the west coast of Scotland and north and west coasts of Ireland.
- 2) To recover current meters and carry out hydrographic sampling.

Narrative

Due to repairs to a fresh water tank and the illness of a member of the crew sailing was delayed until 2000 hours on October 14. The larval survey work was begun in the evening of 15 October off Cape Wrath and continued without interruption until the morning of 21 October when 'Explorer' made a call at Stornoway to change personnel.

'Explorer' sailed from Stornoway at 0800 hours on 22 October and proceeded to the Tory Island area where the larval survey was resumed on 23 October. A search was carried out for the current meters which had been deployed to the north of Tory Island at the beginning of September but the surface buoy could not be located. The larval survey was continued in a southerly direction towards Donegal Bay but weather conditions deteriorated and 'Explorer' was forced to turn back to the sheltered waters off the north coast of Ireland where the larval survey work was continued. Another attempt was made to work stations in the Donegal Bay area during the morning of 24 October but heavy weather again forced 'Explorer' to turn back and seek shelter off the north coast of Ireland.

On 25 October 'Explorer' proceeded to Greenock for repairs to leaking condenser tubes and docked at 2345 hours.

The cruise was terminated on 28 October when it became clear that the repair work would not be completed before the scheduled end of the cruise.

Results

A total of 85 hauls were made with the Dutch Gulf III. Samples were preserved and returned to the Laboratory for analysis.

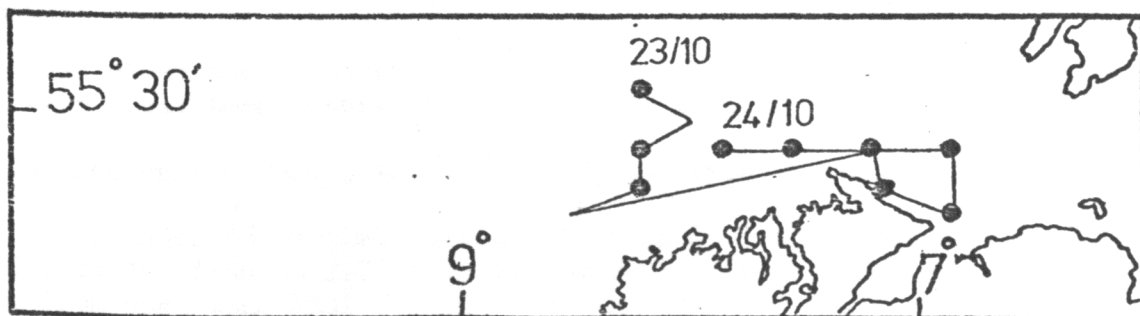
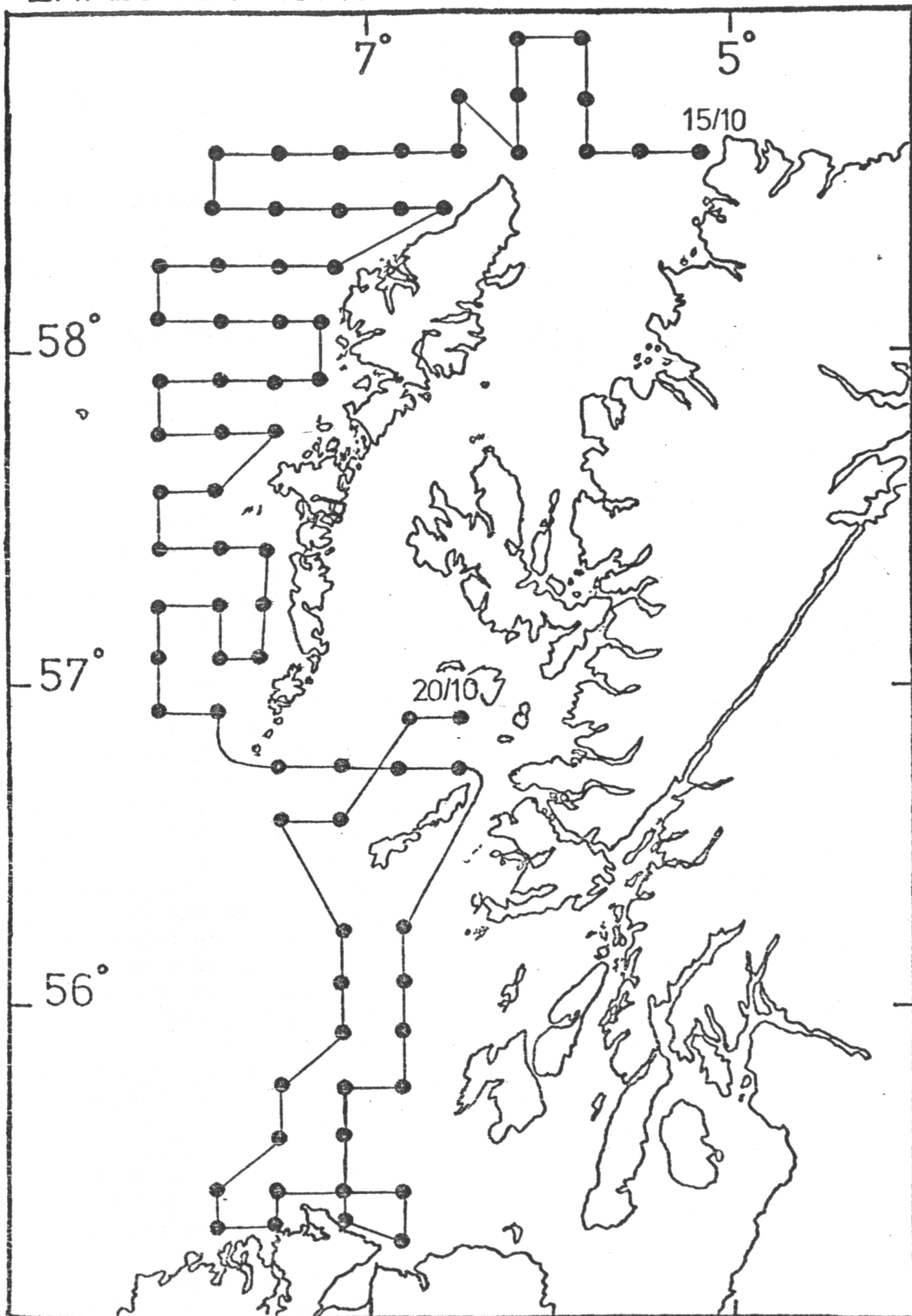
A cursory examination of the samples when collected suggested that herring larvae were fairly widely distributed over the area surveyed. The main concentrations appeared to be off the coasts of Lewis and Harris where most of the larvae observed in the samples were from 10-20 mm in length.

Temperatures and salinities were taken at eleven stations. Temperatures were fairly uniform, ranging from 11-12°C.

Ian G Baxter  
14 November 1977

Seen in draft: W P Watt  
Officer-in-charge

EXPLORER 15/10 - 20/10/77 9EP77



EXPLORER 23/10 - 24/10/77 9EP77