

R3/4

IN CONFIDENCE - Not to be quoted without reference to the Laboratory

JB
9ER80

FRV EXPLORER

CRUISE 9/80

REPORT

August 6 - 26.

Objectives

1. To undertake a North Sea Pre-Recruit Demersal Fish Survey
2. To collect stomachs of commercially important species as recommended by the working group on multispecies assessment model testing
3. To collect information on the age and length composition of several less commercially important species

Narrative

EXPLORER sailed at 1300 hours on the 7 August. Trawling commenced on the same day at the stations off Aberdeen and apart from a short break on the 12 August EXPLORER worked continuously, completing forty-four hauls by the evening of the 17 August. The ship then proceeded to Kirkwall for the mid-trip break.

EXPLORER sailed again at 1530 hours on the 19 August but continuous NW gales forced the ship to remain at anchor in Inganess Bay until the 22 August. An attempt was then made to trawl at the station North East of the Orkneys but the continuing bad weather made this impossible.

The ship then proceeded to the Moray Firth where a series of replicate hauls were carried out. On the 23 August an attempt was made to work at the stations on Turbot Bank but again this proved impossible due to the bad weather.

EXPLORER then proceeded to the Dog hole station off Aberdeen where five replicate hauls were completed. Moderating weather conditions permitted trawling at the stations East of Turbot Bank before the ship docked in Aberdeen at 0800 hours on the 25 August.

Results

1. Fifty five trawl hauls were completed. Catches varied from two baskets - thirty eight baskets. A total of eighteen replicate hauls were made throughout the survey area.
2. A total of 3294 stomachs were examined and samples preserved. These comprised 484 cod, 1912 whiting, 717 Norway pout, 103 saithe and 78 mackerel.
3. Otoliths were collected from common dab, long rough dab, gurnard and witch.

Parasitology

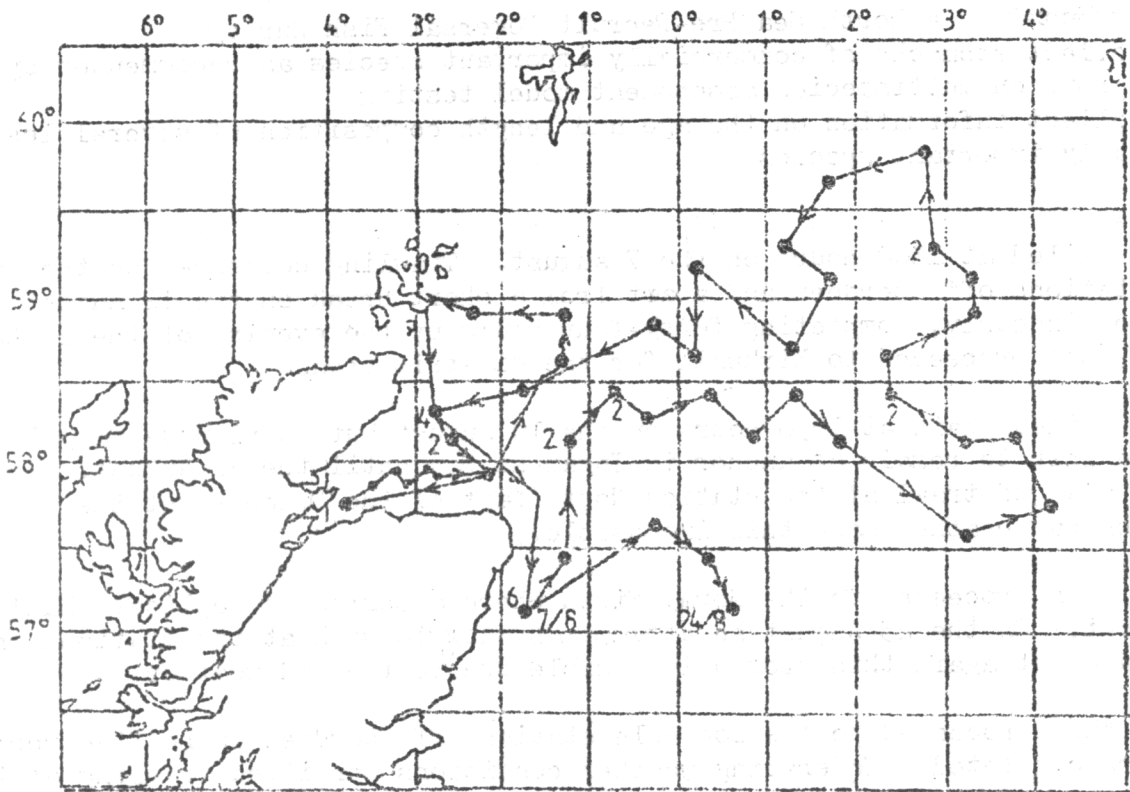
- a. Samples of haddock were deep frozen
- b. The caeca of all otolithed herring were preserved in alcohol
- c. Samples of mackerel and squid were deep frozen

General

Live dogfish and skate were brought back for use in the aquarium.

Seen in draft J ROSS

A P ROBB
29 August 1980



FRV Explorer 6/8 - 26/8/80

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