

R1/4

In Confidence: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the Laboratory

FRV "Explorer"

Cruise 9/81

REPORT

7 - 27 October 1981

9ER81

AR

Personnel:	A Robb	HSO
	R Cook	SO
	M Brown (Mrs)	ASO
	K Peach	ASO
	J MacRae	ASO
	A Grant	HEO

Objectives:

1. To undertake a North Sea pre-recruit demersal survey.
2. To collect stomachs of commercially important species as recommended by the working group on multi-species assessment model testing.

Narrative:

"Explorer" sailed on 7 October commencing work at the stations to the south and east of Aberdeen. Although continuous bad weather interfered with the programme, 14 stations were completed before the half landing at Lerwick on 15 October. Work restarted on 16 October and despite further bad weather, an additional 29 trawl stations were completed before the ship docked in Aberdeen on 27 October.

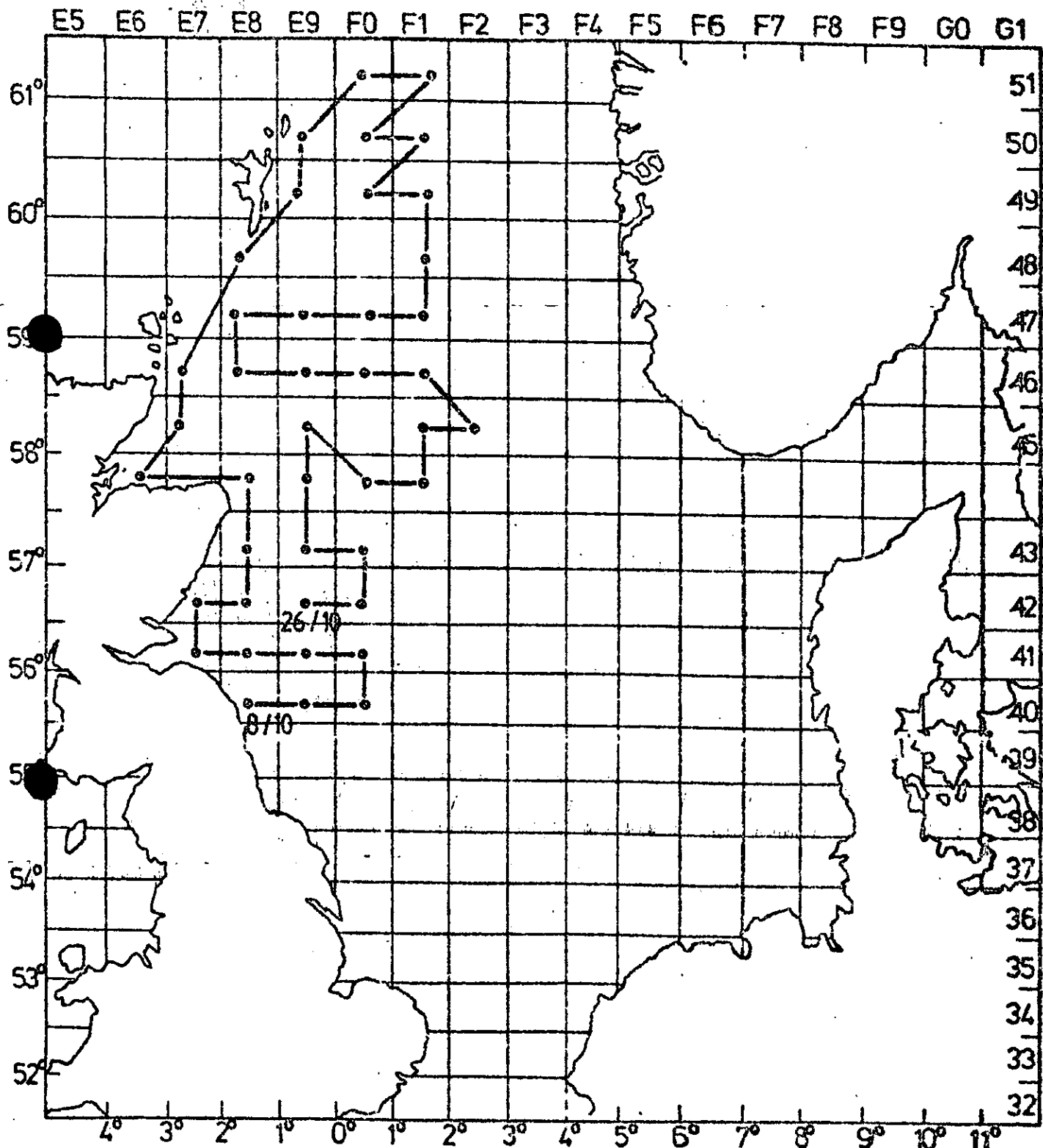
Results:

Trawling: Catches ranged from two baskets up to 64 baskets per one hour's fishing. 0+ haddock ($\leq 20\text{cm}$) were distributed throughout the survey area, the greatest numbers being found to the east of Shetland with catches of 1,764, 2,927 and 3,211 fish per hour being caught in 51F1, 48F1 and 50F1 respectively. Catches of 0+ whiting ($\leq 20\text{cm}$) were generally low but 1,146 fish per hour were taken in 42E7. All fish were treated according to Standing Instructions. Samples of common dabs, haddock and squid were deep-frozen and brought back to the laboratory.

Stomach sampling: A total of 312 cod, 3,562 haddock, 2,444 whiting and 9 saithe were examined and samples brought back to the laboratory.

A P Robb
18 November 1981

Seen in draft: J Pollock



FRS Explorer 7/10—27/10/81

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