

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
FISHERIES LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND

1981 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: G A REAY: CRUISE 11
(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF

B W Jones
B C Bedford
B C Mumford
C J Garród
D Cook

DURATION

Left Grangemouth 1330 h 19 August
Arrived Aberdeen 1900 h 2 September
All times British Summer Time

LOCALITY

Rockall Bank

AIMS

1. To undertake a trawl survey in the Rockall Bank area to determine the abundance and distribution of haddock and other fish species of commercial importance.
2. To obtain a sample of haddock blood plasma for immunogenetic studies (Dr Jamieson).
3. To obtain flesh samples from saithe for immunogenetic studies (A Child).
4. To bring back to Lowestoft frozen fish specimens as required for whole weight/gutted weight studies (B C Bedford).

NARRATIVE

G A REAY sailed from Grangemouth at 1330 h 19 August departure having been delayed by one day in order that repairs could be completed. The ship set course direct to Rockall Bank arriving at 1300 h on 21 August. Fishing commenced immediately and continued until the night of 31 August with only one interruption of half a day due to adverse weather. The ship then set course for Aberdeen where she docked at 1900 h on 2 September.

RESULTS

1. A trawl survey of Rockall Bank was successfully completed. A total of 48 tows were made using a Portuguese high headline trawl fitted with a small mesh cod-end liner. Three tows were invalid. Haddock were abundant but other species were taken in only small quantities. 36 tonnes of haddock (0.48 million fish) were caught on the 45 valid tows. At some stations 0-group fish were abundant and made up about half the catch by weight. A sample of 360 haddock otoliths was taken for age determination. Otoliths were also taken from all cod and saithe that were caught and from a sample of blue whiting.

2. 100 haddock blood plasma samples were collected.
3. Muscle samples were taken from all saithe caught (30 specimens).
4. Fish required for whole weight/gutted weight studies were frozen and returned to Lowestoft for analysis. These included haddock, large cod, large saithe, large ling, skates and rays.

DAMAGE TO TRAWL GEAR

No significant damage was sustained by the trawl gear.

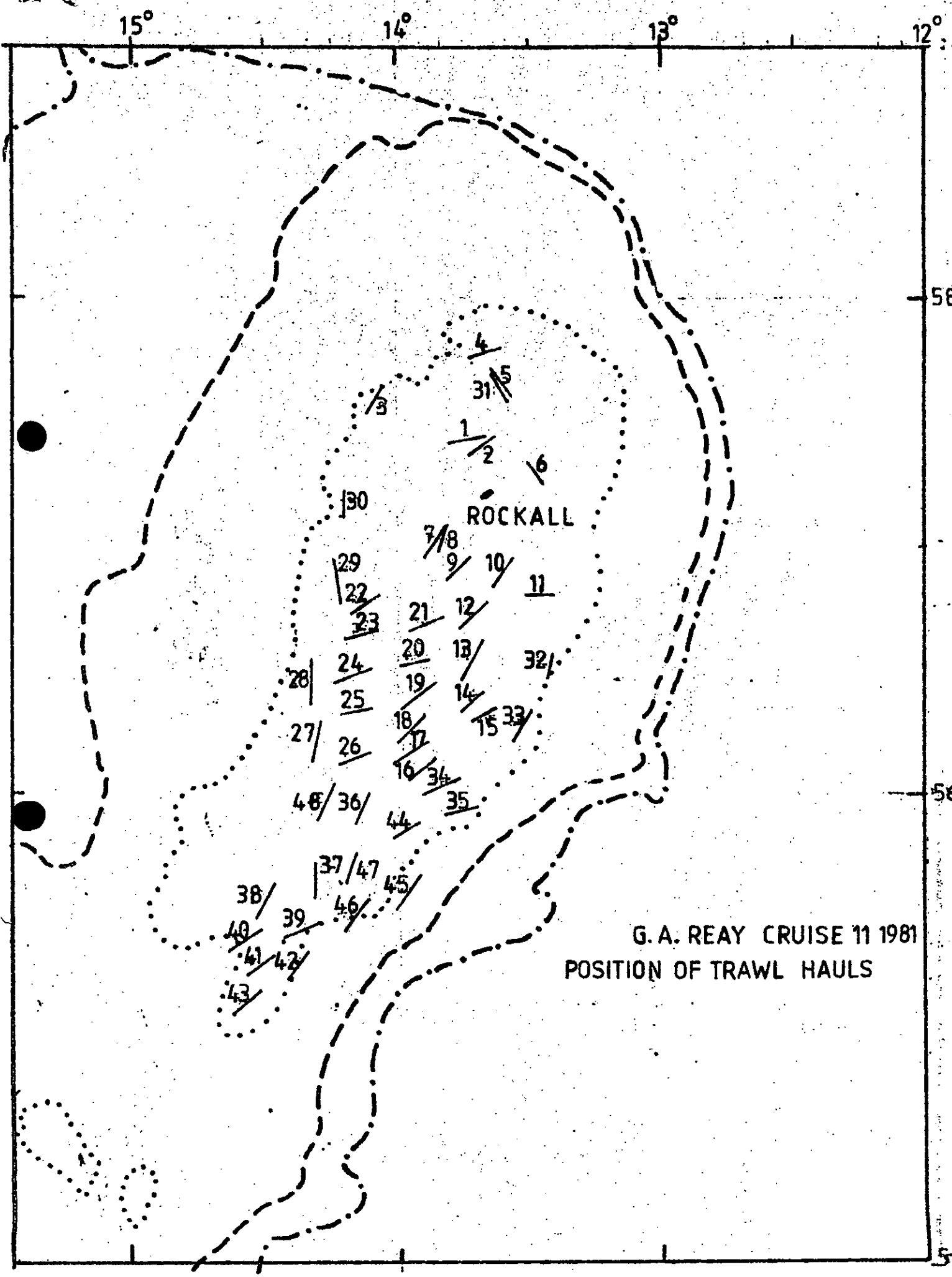
B W Jones
17 September 1981

SEEN IN DRAFT: W E Clark - Master

INITIALLED: DJG

DISTRIBUTION:

- Basic List
- B W Jones
- B C Bedford
- B C Mumford
- C J Garrod
- D Cook



G. A. REAY CRUISE 11 1981
POSITION OF TRAWL HAULS