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

1981 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV G A REAY : CRUISE 9

(Provisional: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF:
C T Macer
G J Howlett
J Dann
R J Turner
D R Eaton
P Elliott

DURATION:
Left Aberdeen 1400 h 24 June
Arrived Aberdeen 2245 h 7 July

All times are Greenwich Mean Time.

LOCALITY:
Northern North Sea

AIMS:

1. To describe the distribution of gadoids within the Norway pout fishery area, using a semi-pelagic high-headline trawl.

2. To obtain biological samples of all gadoids taken, including stomach contents as part of the ICES feeding study (Pope).

3. To collect samples of blood, muscle and other tissue, from selected fish species (Jamieson, Child).

4. To collect a 2 kg sample of Norway pout (Steele).

5. To collect specimens of whole fish for the whole/gutted weight conversion factor project (Bedford).

6. To collect a sample of whole whiting (Brown).

7. To collect specimens for the fish identification course (Blacker)

NARRATIVE:

Fishing commenced at 0615 h 25 June at the first station south-east of Aberdeen. Stations along the east-west legs of the grid were then worked successively further northwards, averaging 4 stations per day. The most northerly line of stations was completed on 5 July and on 6 July the ship started to work southwards along stations in the Norwegian sector. At this point the shaft generator started to give trouble and the following morning it was considered unsafe to continue. The ship left for Aberdeen where she berthed the same evening. No time was lost due to weather; 4 stations were lost due to the generator failure.

RESULTS:

1. A total of 49 trawl stations were completed, of which 2 were invalidated by gear damage. As usual catches of Norway pout increased with depth, and there was a corresponding decrease in the catch of other gadoids, of which haddock was the most abundant.

2. Gadoid length compositions were recorded at all stations and otoliths were collected by the ICES roundfish sampling areas. The sex and maturity of otolithed fish was also recorded. Stomachs of cod, haddock, whiting, saithe and mackerel were collected from alternate hauls (ICES samples) and those of Norway pout were also preserved (including some from other stations).

3. The following tissue samples were taken: muscle (saithe, mackerel), blood (cod, haddock, saithe), other tissue (ling, spurdog, plaice, dab, angler, turbot, catfish, 3-bearded rockling, grey gurnards, megrim, cuckoo ray, lesser spotted dogfish, witch, silvery pout, spotted ray, blonde ray, brill, halibut, tusk, greater argentine, black-mouthed dogfish).

4. A 2 kg sample of Norway pout was collected from ICES rectangle 46F0.

5. The following fish were collected for the conversion factor project:- cod(76), haddock (33), whiting (39), saithe (49), lemon sole (10), witch (11), megrim (62), pollack (2), catfish (28), angler (13), ling (48), hake (46).

6. A stratified sample of whole whiting was collected from ICES rectangle 48F1.

7. A total of 6 bags of (mainly) assorted small gadoids was collected; 1 bag of Pandalus and Nephrops.

MISCELLANEOUS:

8. Herring samples were frozen from rectangles 44E8, 45F1, 47E8, 48E9.

9. Mackerel samples were frozen from rectangles 46E7, 47E8,.

10. A sample of blue whiting from rectangle 51F1 was frozen.

C T Macer
20 July 1981

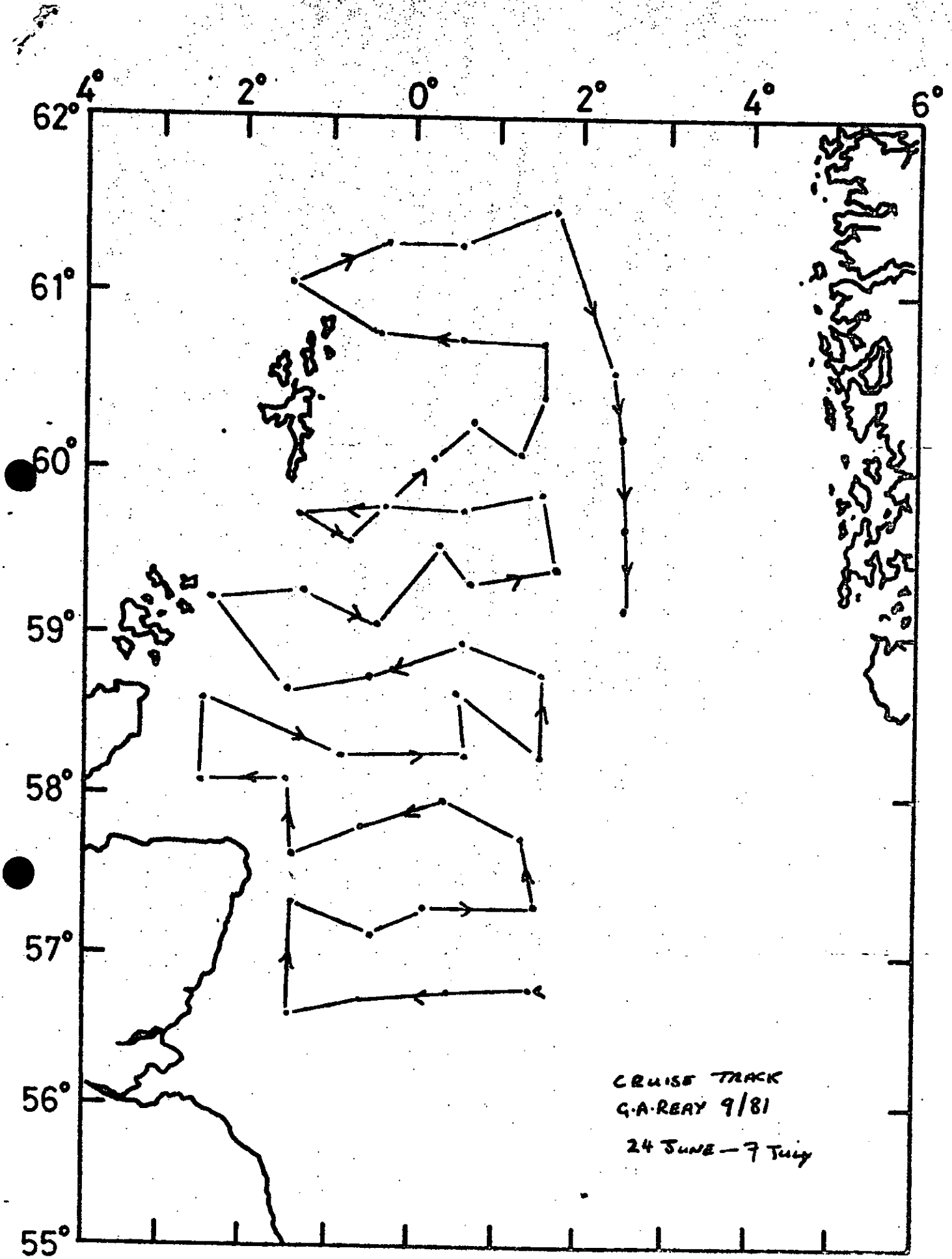
SEEN IN DRAFT:
P M

INITIALLED:
D J G

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +

Scientific staff on Cruise
K Steele
A Jamieson
M Pawson
J G Pope
C Brown
R Blacker
S Lockwood
R J Wood
B Jones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CRUISE TRACK
G.A.REAY 9/81
24 JUNE – 7 JULY