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DURATION:

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All times are Greenwich Mean Time on (years)

### LOCALITY:

Northern North Sea . प्राप्त

## AIMS:

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

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

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- To collect specimens of whole fish for the whole/gutted weight conversion factor project (Bedford). CONTRACTOR STATES
- To collect a sample of whole whiting (Brown).
- 7. To collect specimens for the fish identification course (Blacker) The Bolton

# 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 tomcontinue. 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 46FO.
- 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
- 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.

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