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Not to be cited without prior reference to the Laboratory

External Contract Cruise FRV *Lough Foyle*

## REPORT

16-31 January 1993

### Personnel

D G Reid     SSO  
J Morrison   PSO

### Objectives

To carry out an acoustic survey for herring in ICES area VIIa(S),g & j (Celtic Sea) on contract to the Department of Marine, Dublin.

### Narrative

Marine Laboratory acoustic gear was retained in Belfast from the previous survey. Scientific staff joined the vessel in Belfast on 16 January. Gear was installed and checked on 17 January. The vessel sailed on the morning of 18 January. A calibration of the acoustic equipment was conducted in Bantry Bay. The survey started at Bantry Bay early on the morning of 19 January. The survey track (see attached map) covered the coastal area of the Celtic Sea between 6°15W and 10°00W and included Dunmanus and Bantry Bays. The survey was completed on 28 January at Carnsore point. The vessel then returned to Belfast on the evening of 29 January. Marine Laboratory staff and equipment returned to Aberdeen on 30 January.

### Results

The survey was successful, two days were lost due to weather. The total mileage surveyed was 910 nm. Fishing exercises were generally successful. Eighteen trawl hauls were carried out, 14 of these contained significant numbers of herring. The estimated spawning stock biomass was 33,230 tonnes. No problems were encountered in the analysis. There is possible evidence of a strong recruitment to the stock, with a large proportion of the fish being one ringers.

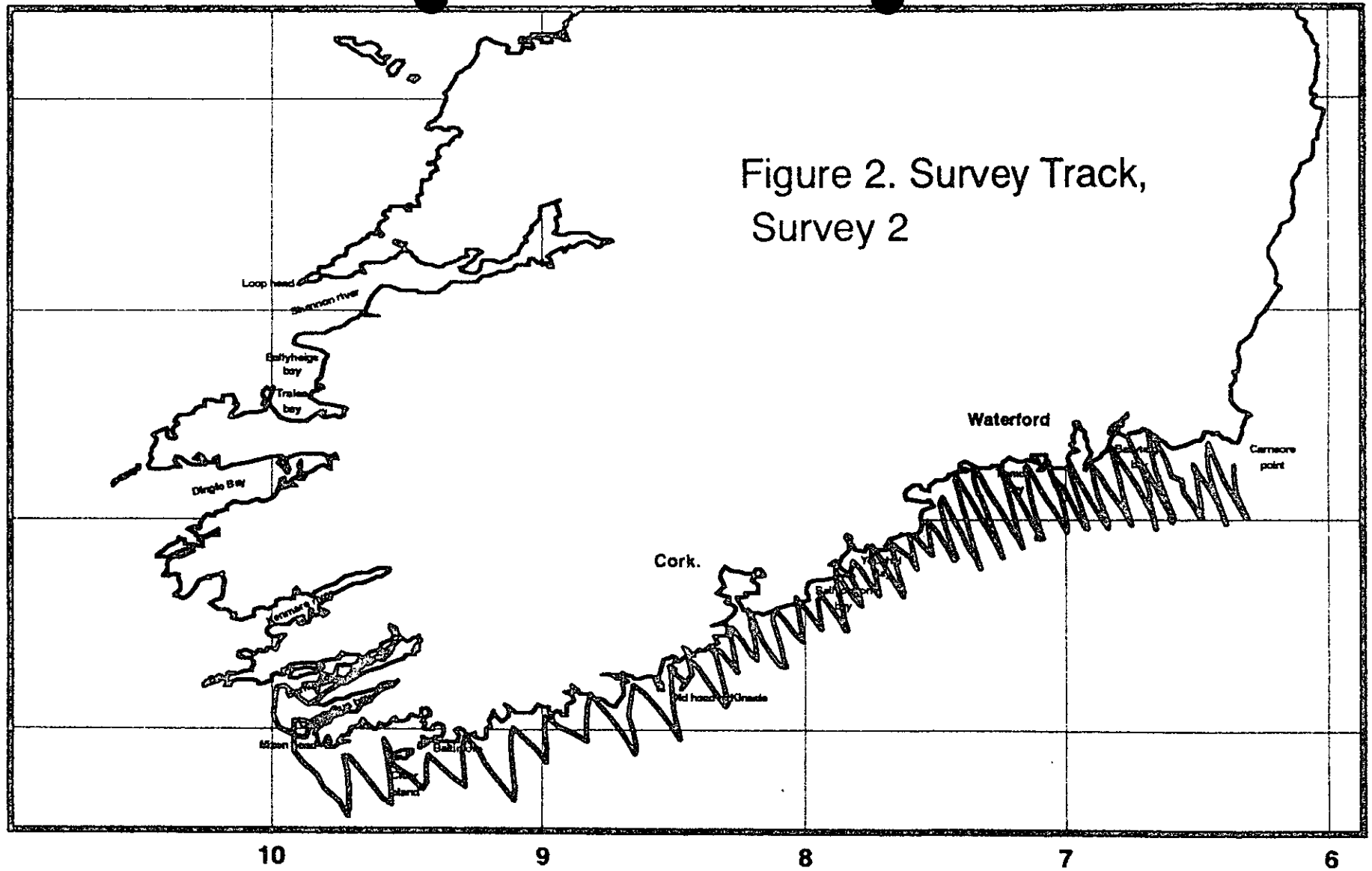
D G Reid

8 April 1994

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Figure 2. Survey Track,  
Survey 2

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