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External Contract Cruise FRV *Lough Foyle*

REPORT

15-28 January 1994

Personnel

E Armstrong

Objectives

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

Narrative

Marine Laboratory acoustic gear was transferred to Belfast by van and ferry on 16 January. Scientific staff joined the vessel in Belfast on 15 January. Gear was installed and checked on 16 January. The vessel sailed on the morning of 17 January to Dundrum Bay for calibration of acoustic equipment. The actual survey started at Carnsore point early on the morning of 19 January. The survey track (see attached map) covered the coastal area of the Celtic Sea between 8°30W and 6°30W and out to a maximum of 20 nm. The survey was completed on 26 January at Old Head of Kinsale. The vessel then returned to Belfast on the evening of 27 January. Marine Laboratory staff and equipment returned to Aberdeen on 28 January.

Results

The survey was reasonably successful, two days were lost due to weather. The total mileage surveyed was 875 nm. Fishing exercises were generally successful. Fifteen trawl hauls were carried out, 12 of these contained significant numbers of herring. The estimated spawning stock biomass was 55,860 tonnes. No problems were encountered in the analysis. There is good evidence of a strong recruitment to the stock, with a large proportion of the fish being two ringers.

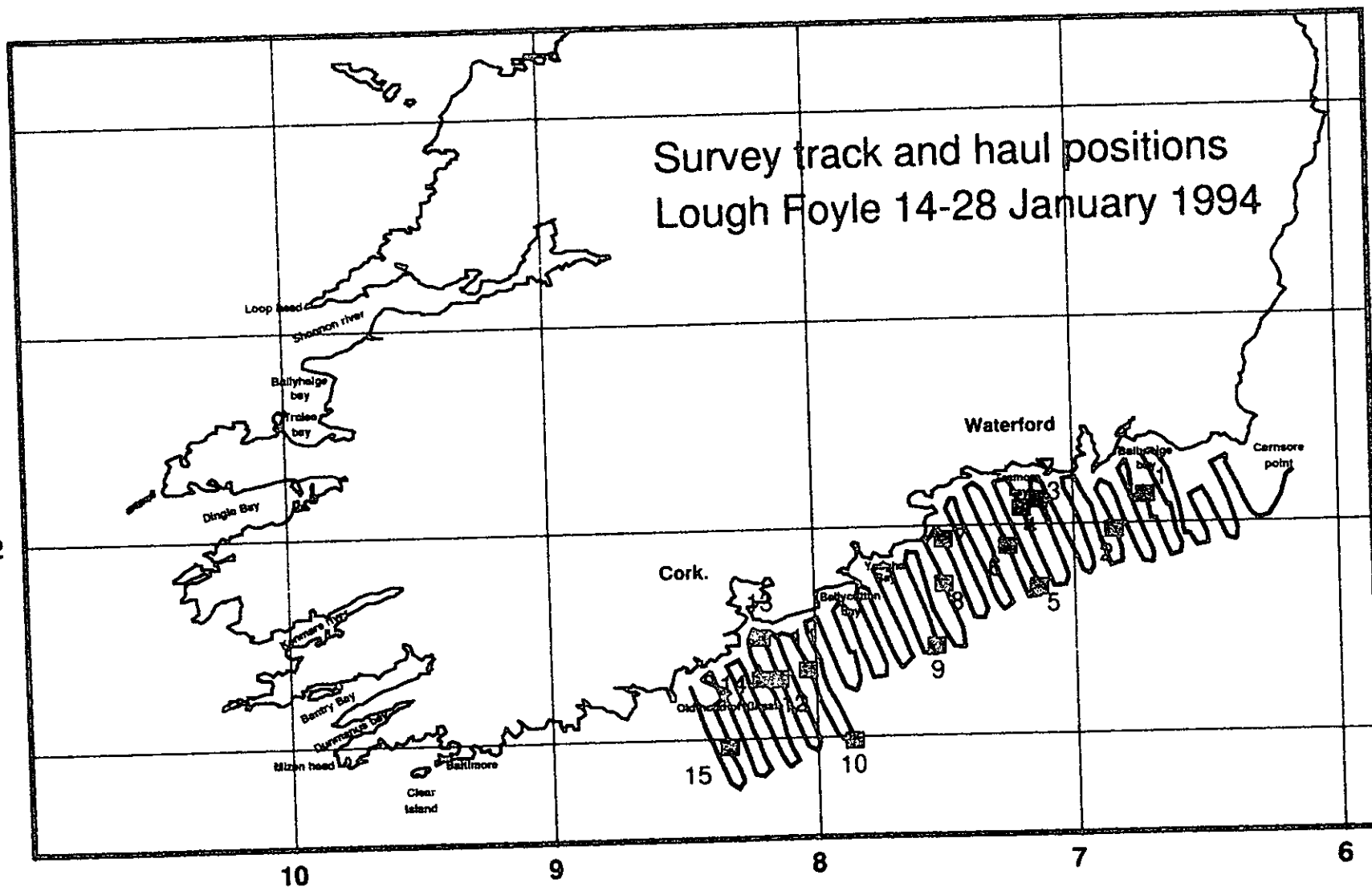
D G Reid

8 April 1994

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Survey track and haul positions Lough Foyle 14-28 January 1994

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