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MV *Norlantean* (K508)

Charter Cruise 1401H

REPORT

26 April - 7 May 2001

Personnel

K J Peach (In charge)
D O'Driscoll
J Mair

Fishing Gear

Vessel's own commercial trawls and codends; the latter fitted with an 80 mm internal liner supplied by the FRS Marine Laboratory.

Objectives

1. To map the distribution of haddock *Melanogrammus aeglefinus* at various depths on and adjacent to the Rockall Plateau.
2. Collect haddock length frequency, length/weight, age, sex and maturity data.
3. To sample within the newly agreed closed area see, map 1.
4. To record temperature at depth using a minilog sampler.

Narrative

Norlantean sailed from Kyle of Lochalsh at 1430 hours on 26 April and headed west to the first trawling position (5641N 1354W) arriving at 0030 hours on 28 April. Fishing commenced without incident and a total of 46 hauls of approximately two hours duration were completed giving comprehensive coverage of the survey area, see map 1. *Norlantean* set sail at 0200 hours on 6 May arriving back in Kyle of Lochalsh at 0730 hours on 8 May.

Results

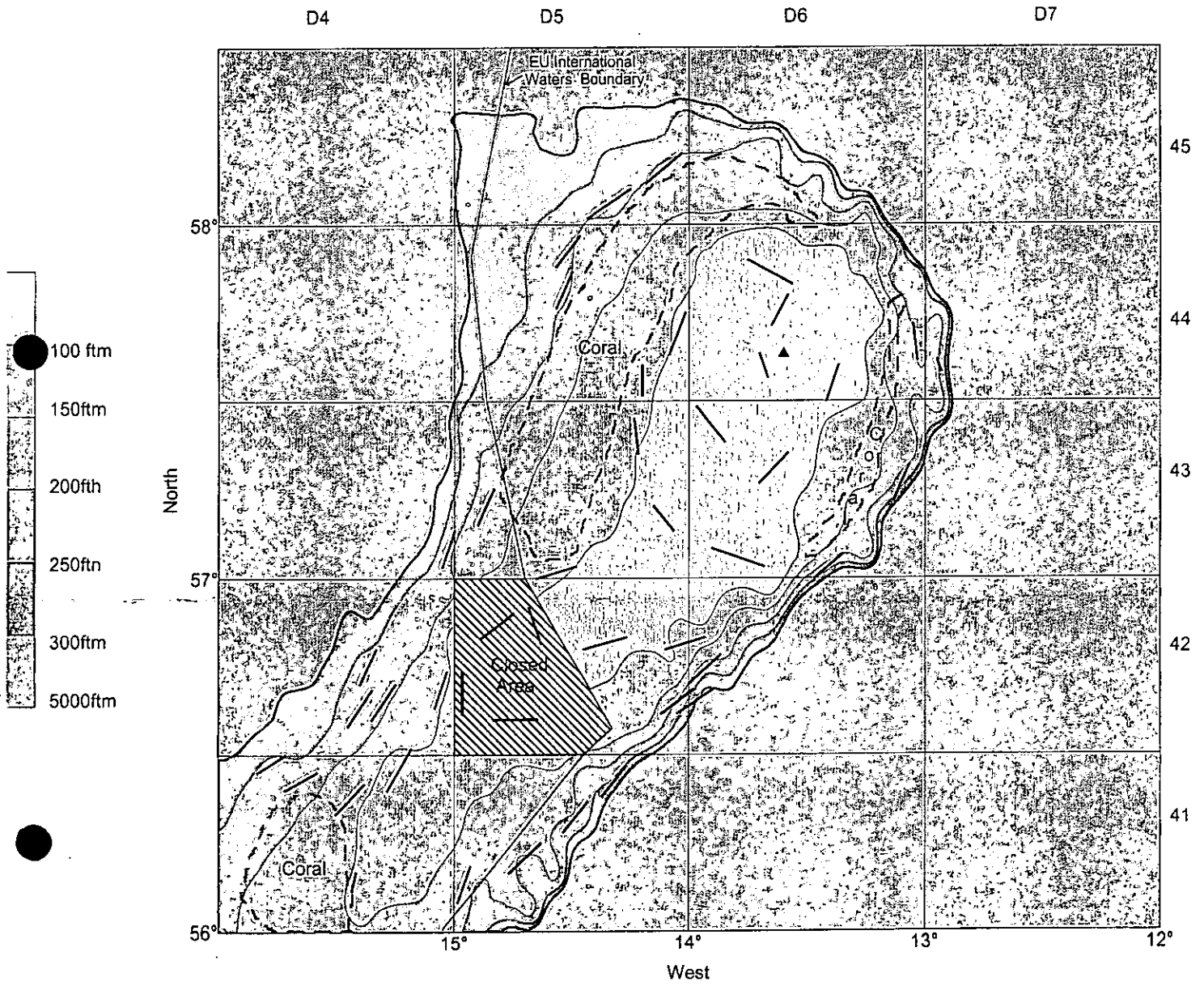
In order to gain information on depth distribution of haddock each statistical rectangle within the 250-fathom contour was sampled where possible at 50-fathom intervals. Catches were relatively small in terms of bulk with 10-15 baskets of mixed fish being the typical haul. The catch composition was fairly uniform at all depths with haddock, bluemouth (*Helicolenus dactylopterus*) and Norway haddock (*Sebastes viviparus*) being the main components. Hauls at depths in excess of 220 fathoms comprised of deepwater species with almost no haddock being caught. Catches of haddock above 220 fathoms ranged from 6,000 fish in haul 2 to 75 fish in haul 34, see map 2. A

total of 70,355 haddock were caught of which 21,449 were scored for length, 1,150 for sex, maturity and age, and a further 880 fish for length, sex, maturity and four weight parameters (total, gutted, liver and gonad weight).

All survey objectives were met. The experience and hard work of Skipper Rhodes - Schofield and his crew ensured the success of the charter.

K J Peach
9 May 2001

Trawl Tracks



Trawl Tracks

