

R1/12

Not to be cited without prior reference to the Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen

FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 0798S

REPORT

27 April - 17 May 1998

Personnel

D G Reid	SSO (in charge)
A Robb	HSO
I Gibb	SO
M Mathewson	SO
G Henderson	SO
L Bullough	Visitor (AU)
M Walsh	Visitor

Half Landing: Cork 7 May 1998**Objectives**

1. To carry out mackerel egg survey (ICES Triennial Survey) on the western shelf and shelf edge.
2. To collect fish samples, by trawling, for atresia and maturity assessment.
3. To recover fish trap west of Shetland.

Out-turn Days per Project: MF01t - 21 days**Narrative**

Scotia departed Aberdeen at 1200 hours on 27 April and proceeded to the Foinaven area to attempt recovery of deployed fish trap. Despite quartering the area for four hours no signal was received from the unit and the recovery was called off. *Scotia* proceeded to pick up the first plankton station at 58°45'N 8°15'W. Sampling operations were continued for the next 10 days in generally reasonable weather before the half landing in Cork on 7 May. Following the half landing plankton sampling continued successfully for the remainder of the survey. Only two trawl stations were required for sampling and these were carried out successfully.

Results

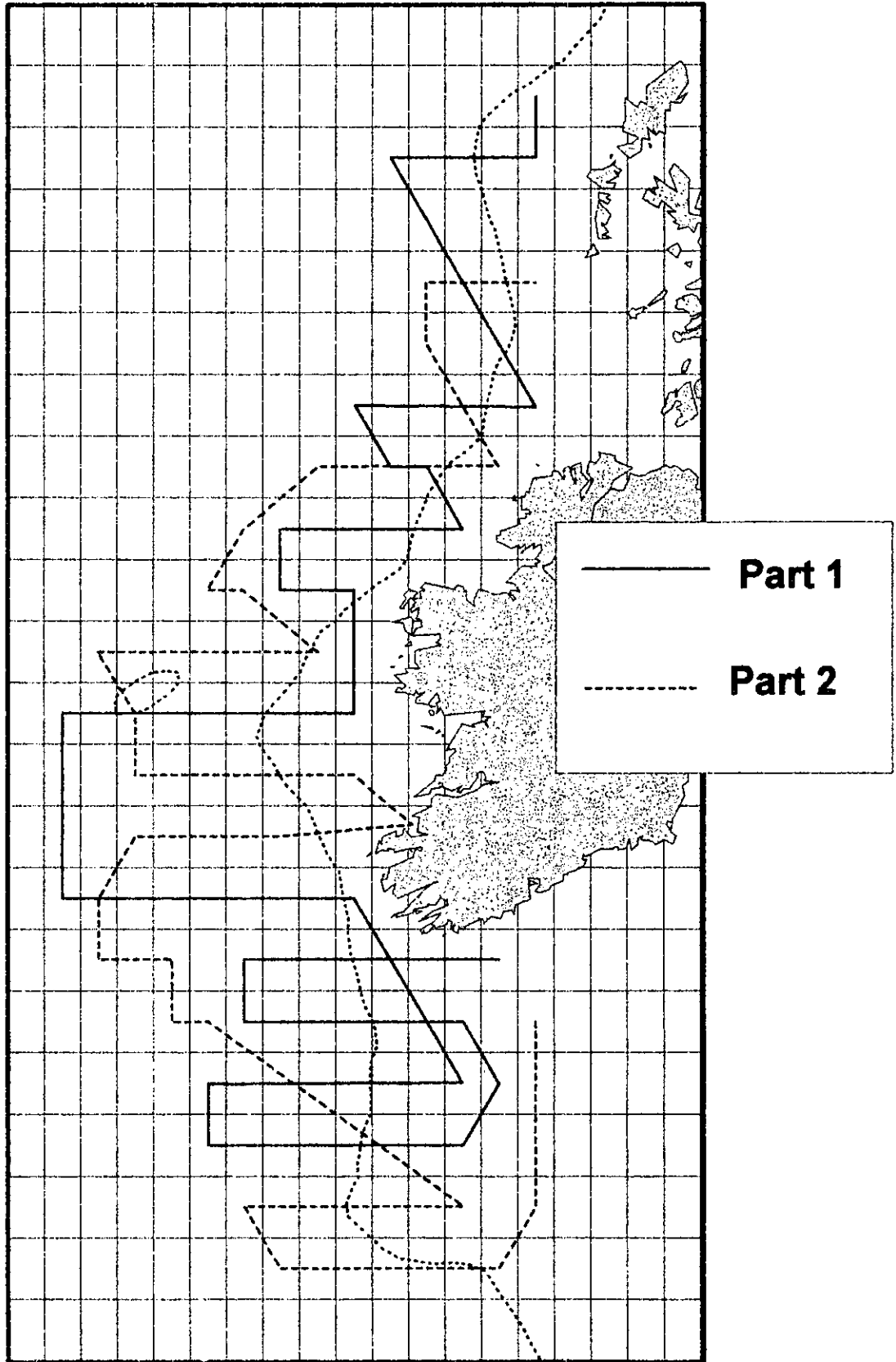
Due to the favourable weather it was possible to complete 143 plankton stations as well as 10 calibration stations for the GULF III. Two trawl stations were carried out with the GOV and one session of hand lining for biological samples. The first figure shows the cruise tracks before and after the half landing. All samples were sorted for mackerel, horse mackerel and other eggs during the survey. Also all identified mackerel and horse mackerel eggs were staged. It should be noted that this is the first time this has proved possible and reflects credit on the scientific team and the stability of the new *Scotia*. The distribution of stage I mackerel eggs is shown on the second attached figure. The best densities of eggs were found along the shelf break and

in the Porcupine Bank and Sea Bight areas. In general it was possible to continue transects to zero values both inshore and offshore, although lack of time prevented this in the northern part of the area on the return survey. Results will be retained in the Laboratory for inclusion in the full survey database and analysis which is also carried out here.

D Reid
1 June 1998

Seen in draft: P Ramsay

Cruise track FRV Scotia 27/4 - 17/5/98 Mackerel Egg Survey



Stage 1 eggs FRVScotia 27/4 - 17/5/98 Mackerel Egg Survey

