

R1/12

IN CONFIDENCE - NOT TO BE QUOTED WITHOUT PRIOR TO THE LABORATORY

CRUISE 9/81

9SR81

FRV SCOTIA

REPORT:

9-28 September 1981

OBJECTIVE

To conduct a herring larval survey to the north and west of Scotland.

NARRATIVE

'Scotia' departed Aberdeen at 1730hrs on 9 September, 1981 and proceeded northwards to begin sampling at 0830hrs on 10 September. Sampling continued unto the afternoon of 12 September when 'Scotia' halted briefly off Stornoway to pick up Mr R. Mitchell. Sampling, thereafter, was continued and 'Scotia' returned to Stornoway on 17 September for a mid-cruise break. The official break period of 17-18 September was extended by 24 hours to permit shore-based engineers to complete the fitting of a new shaft to the plankton survey winch.

After the mid-cruise break sampling was continued from the north of the Butt of Lewis via St. Kilda to Barra Head where work was temporarily halted to allow one of the ships officers to be landed for compassionate leave ashore. Sampling recommenced the following day (22/9) off Northern Ireland and was continued through Donegal Bay, the Minches and the North Coast of Scotland to the morning of 28 September when 'Scotia' then proceeded to Aberdeen and the completion of the cruise. 'Scotia' docked at Aberdeen at 1930hrs on 28 September, 1981.

During the cruise only 12 hours on 26-27 September were lost due to unfavourable weather conditions.

RESULTS

1. Sampling

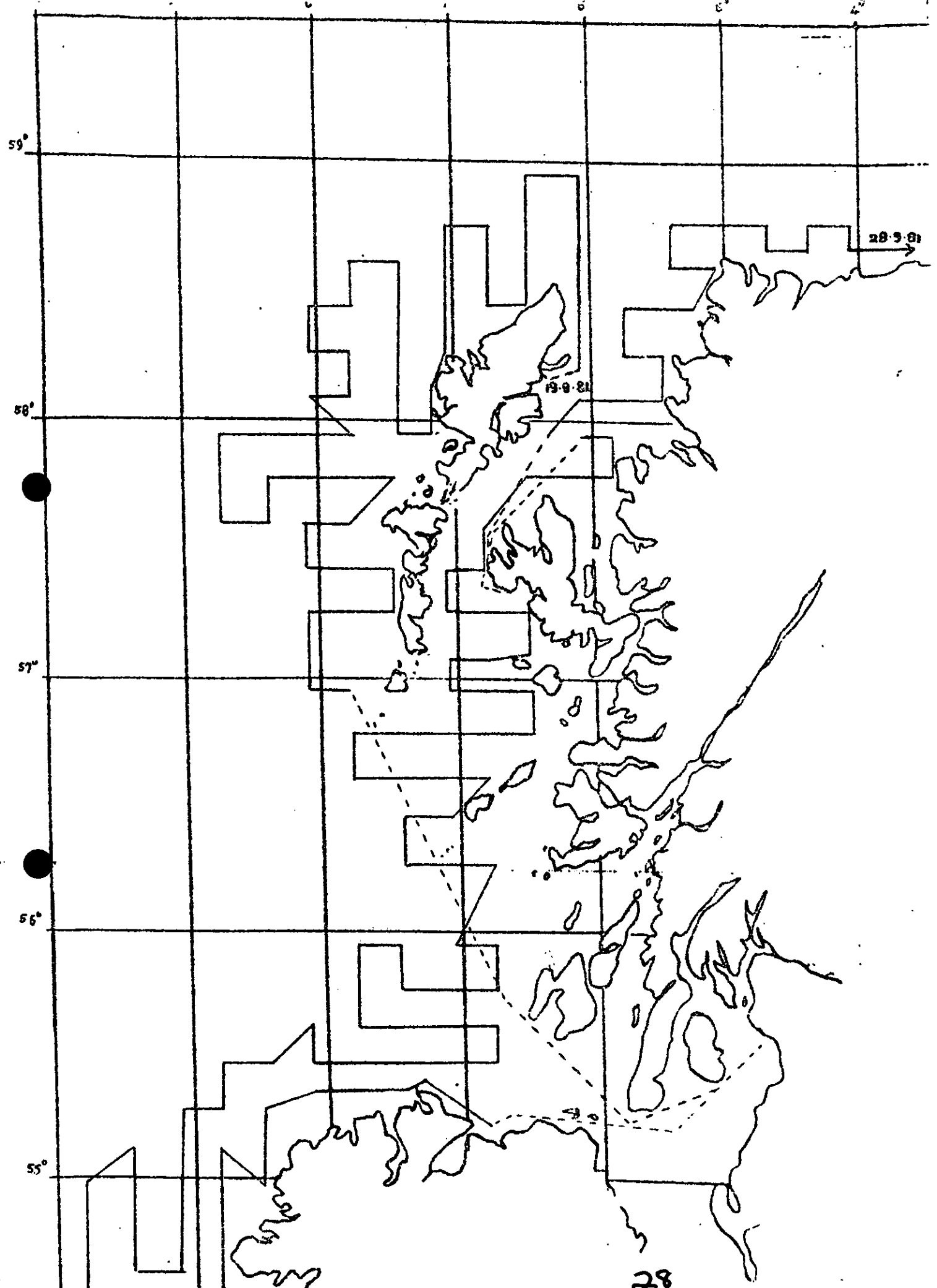
A total of 271 samples were collected using a Dutch Gulf III sampler. The greater part of the survey area except for the area to the west of the Hebrides, was sampled twice at an interval of approximately 10 days. Superficial examination of the samples showed few larvae to be present. Only in samples from shallow water off Tiree and to the north of Scotland were large numbers of larvae observed.

2. Depth Monitoring

During the cruise the opportunity was taken, weather permitting, to test a Fenning DC3200 depth monitoring/recording system in association with the Gulf III sampler. The initial results were favourable but the system itself is in need of further refinement before it can be adopted as a standard item of sampling equipment.

Seen in draft: J.W. Gillon

J. GAULD
5 October 1981



FRS Scotia 1919 — ²⁸ 19/81

9SR81

