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Cruise 10/84
FRV "Scotia"

Report

31 August - 14 September 1984

Objectives

- 1) To participate in the ICES co-ordinated herring larval surveys in Division VIa (N).
- 2) To collect water samples as part of the Lowestoft Radio-Caesium Monitoring Programme.
- 3) To collect herring larvae using a metre net and preserve in liquid nitrogen as part of a study on the lipid fatty acid content of larvae.
- 4) To sample an additional station grid off North and South Uist over the period 8 - 11 September.
- 5) To pick out fish larvae from plankton samples collected during the cruise.

Narrative

FRV "Scotia" left Aberdeen at 1630 on 31 8 84 and proceeded to STN 36 where sampling commenced at 0714 on 1 9 84. Stations were then sampled in the order indicated in Figures I and II.

Station 34 was omitted on 7 9 84 due to bombing range activity and stations 73 and 74 due to the very heavy weather conditions at the time.

Both Gulf III samplers were damaged and both depressors lost in collisions with very steeply rising "peaks" during the survey. The first sampler was damaged at STN 82 on 4 9 84 and the other at STN 83 on 11 9 84. As no further Gulf III sampling was possible "Scotia" then steamed northwards to STN 32 where metre net sampling was carried out, at 0800 on 12 9 84, in order to provide larvae for lipid analysis.

After sampling stations 19 and 18, "Scotia" set course for Aberdeen at 1100 on 12 9 84 and docked in Aberdeen at 0400 on 13 9 84.

Results

A total of 187 stations were completed, 80 twice and 27 once. All of the major spawning grounds were surveyed twice. Herring larvae were removed from all samples, counted and the numbers of larvae per m² were calculated at each station. Larvae were more numerous than during the corresponding 1983/84 survey, particularly on the northern spawning grounds.

Water samples were collected, off Aberdeen, in the Pentland Firth and off Cape Wrath as part of the Radio Caesium Programme.

A total of 14 metre net hauls were carried out and approximately 2000 larvae collected for lipid analysis.

The additional station grid off the Uists was not attempted due to a force 8 north westerly gale at the relevant time.

General

Regular radio contact was maintained with FRV "Clupea" from 31 August to 3 September and normal contacts were maintained with the laboratory during the survey.

Seen in draft: Captain J Gillon

P. Rankine
2 October 1984

FIGURE I

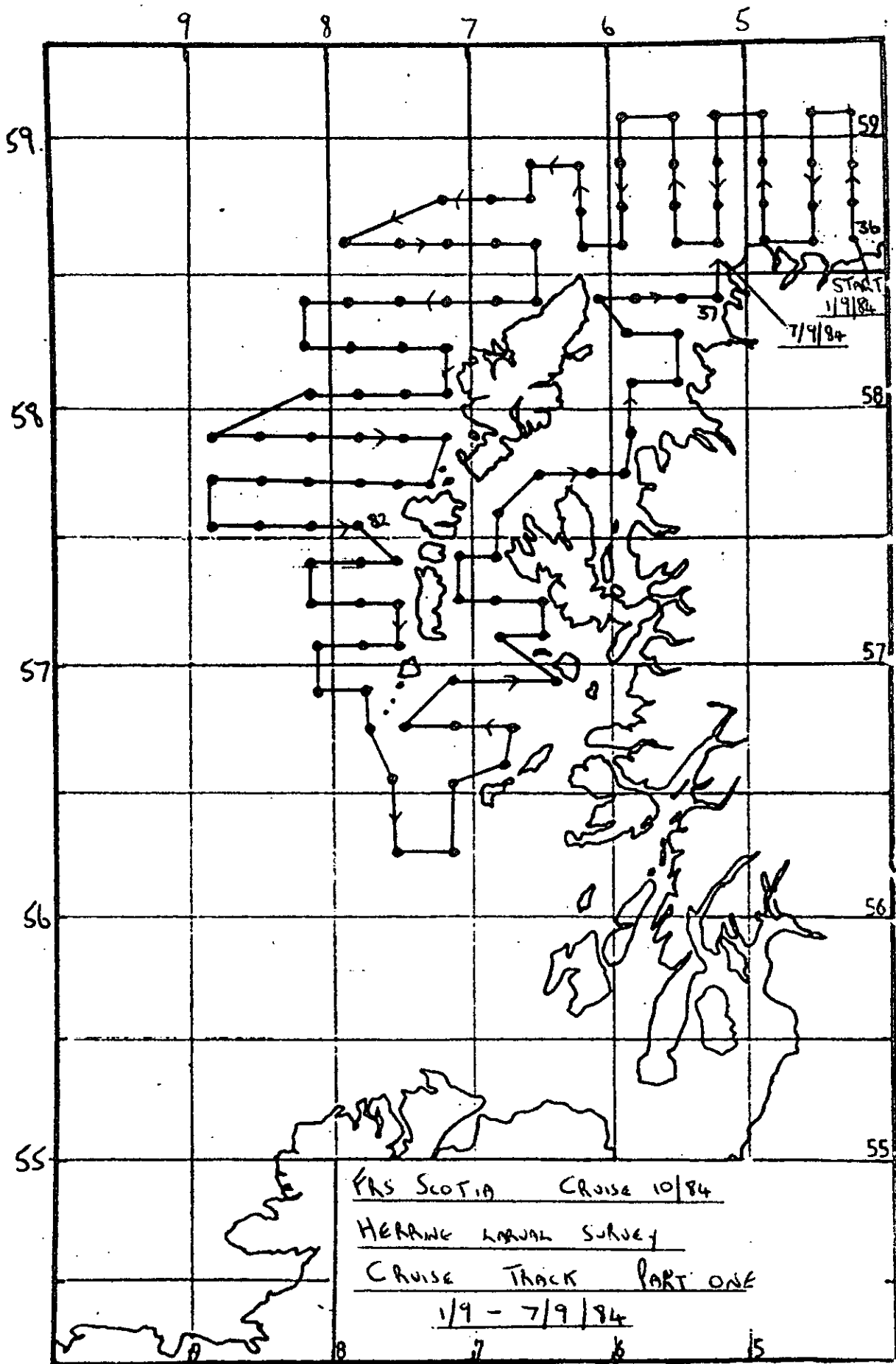


FIGURE II

