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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
FISHERIES LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND

1988 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: FV SUZANNA D: 1/88
(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF

- R Millner
- C Whiting
- M Easey

DURATION

Sailed Shoreham 2100h, 8 August
Docked Shoreham 0600h, 23 August

LOCALITY

Eastern English Channel (area VIID)

AIMS

1. To carry out a beam trawl survey of sole and plaice in ICES area VIID as part of the ICES coordinated flatfish survey.
2. To obtain length distributions and otoliths from sole, plaice and other commercial species.

NARRATIVE

Staff travelled to Shoreham and after loading gear sailed overnight to the first stations off Poole Bay. Two 4m beam trawls were towed for up to 30 minutes at each station, working from west to east along the English coast between Poole Bay and Dover and west along the French coast from Boulogne towards the Cherbourg peninsula. Fishing was carried out during daylight only in three depth zones, 0-20m, 20-40m and greater than 40m and the catch from each trawl sorted and measured separately.

On 19 August in the Baie de Seine the trawls become full of sand and ophiuroids and the weight was too great to lift the cod-ends aboard. All attempts to clear the gear failed and after two days delay for bad weather, divers from Le Havre were used to release the cod-ends, enabling the gear to be recovered on 22 August. SUZANNA D then steamed overnight from the French coast, docking at Shoreham at 0600h, 23 August.

RESULTS

(see track plot)

1. A total of 51 stations were sampled/ 23 on the English coast and 28 in French waters. The catch rate of sole and plaice in kg/tow is given below by depth zone.

	0-20m		20-40m		greater than 40m	
	Sole	Plaice	Sole	Plaice	Sole	Plaice
English coast	1.6	17.4	0.4	3.1	0.2	2.7
French coast	3.6	25.4	1.2	2.7	0.1	2.5

Sole catches on the English coast were highest in Poole Bay and east of Beachy Head. On the French coast the highest catch rates occurred from the Baie de Somme south to Le Havre. The presence of large concentrations of ophiuroids made trawling with heavy beam trawl gear difficult on some part of the French coast especially in the Baie de la Seine where patches of softer sediments with weed and shell were also found.

2. Otoliths and length measurements were collected from soles and plaice for age length distributions on both the English and French coasts.
3. Surface temperature and salinity and bottom sediment samples were taken at each station.
4. Samples of flesh were collected from soles for stock separation studies (D Thompson).
5. Hydroid samples were collected at selected stations (P Dare).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

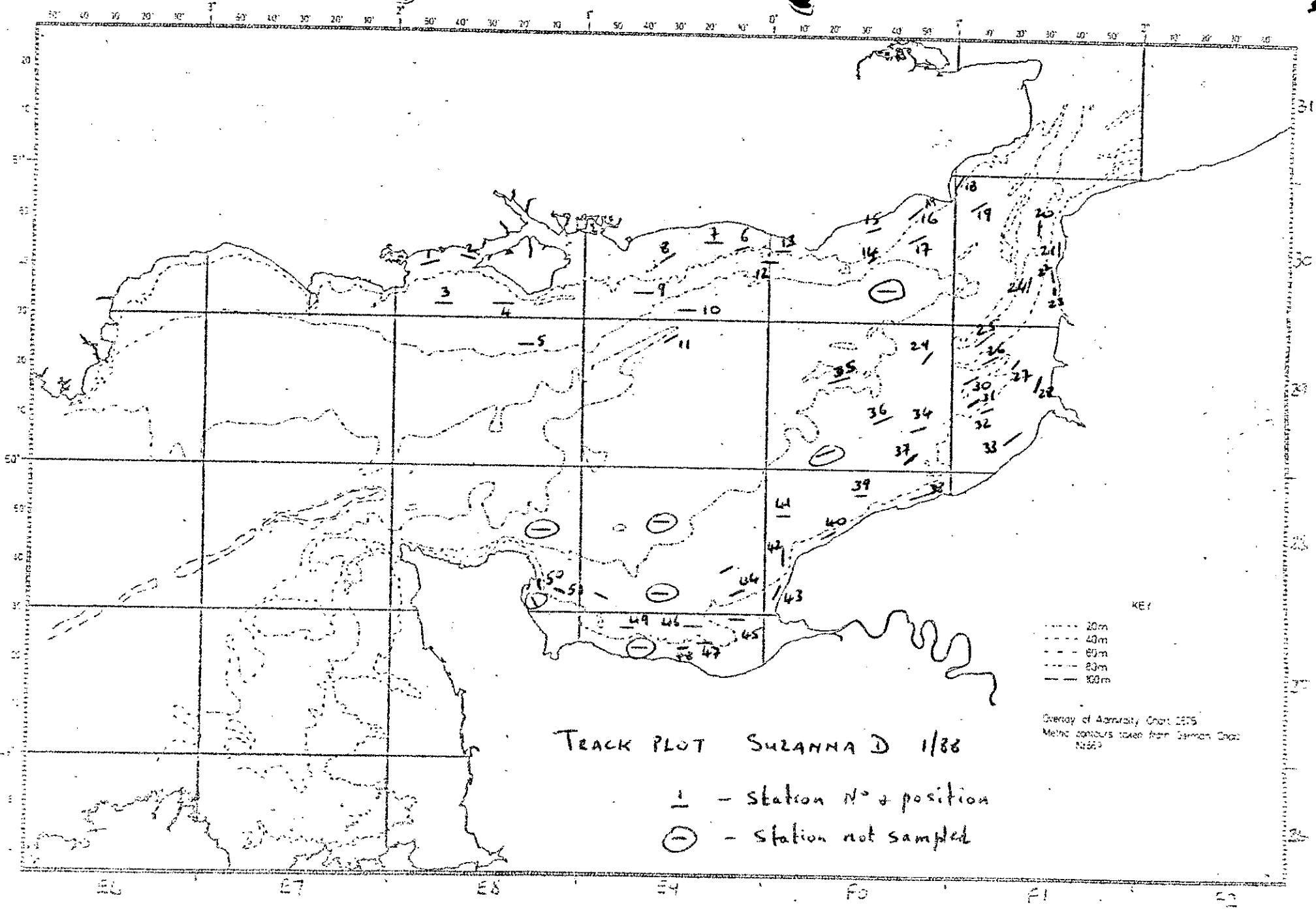
I would like to thank Mr Hendrikson and the Skipper, Jack Bray and his crew for their cooperation and considerable help throughout the survey.

Richard Millner
26 August 1988

INITIALLED: DJG

DISTRIBUTION:

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A Souplet, IFREMER, Boulogne
R de Clerk, Ostende
Skipper J Bray



TRACK PLOT SUZANNA D 1/88

- 1 - Station No + position
- ⊖ - Station not sampled

KEY
 20m
 - - - - 40m
 - - - - 60m
 - - - - 80m
 - - - - 100m

Overlay of Admiralty Chart 2075
 Metric contours taken from Garman Chart 2267