

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

1983 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CLIONE: CRUISE 11

(PROVISIONAL: not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF:

D J Symonds
S Flatman
Mrs M J Boon
D W Palmer
J M Elson
P Connolly (Irish Observer)

DURATION:

Left Lowestoft 0830h 7 September 1983
Arrived Lowestoft 2200h 26 September 1983
(All times are Greenwich Mean Time)

LOCALITY:

Irish Sea, Bristol Channel and western English Channel.

AIMS:

1. To carry out the annual survey of 0- and 1- group gadoids in the Irish Sea.
2. To sample stomach contents of a range of species for use with multi-species assessment models.
3. To repeat part of the Irish Sea groundfish survey in Cardigan Bay.
4. To collect live berried Nephrops for larval development studies.
5. To sample 0-group mackerel in the western English Channel.

ADDITIONAL AIMS:

6. To collect samples of commercial size fish from stations in the eastern Irish Sea for AEP2.
7. To collect water samples for AEP1.
8. To retrieve the current meter rig in Start Bay.

NARRATIVE:

A good passage was made to the Irish Sea and the first survey station off Tuskar Rocks was occupied at 1144h on 9 September. Trawling was interrupted the following day by freshening northerly winds and CLIONE proceeded to an anchorage in St Tudwal Roads, Tremadoc Bay. Fishing resumed on the 12th and, despite forecasts of strong to gale force winds, continued until the 17th when shelter was sought in Ramsey Bay from a severe SW gale. A mid-cruise break was taken at Douglas on the 19th where the Irish observer disembarked.

Sailing at 1100h on 20 September, the remaining trawl stations in the Irish Sea were successfully completed by 1038h on the 24th with only short delays on the 23rd due to occasionally strong easterly winds. CLIONE then proceeded to Lowestoft, retrieving a current meter rig from Start Bay and sampling with a neuston net at 4-hourly intervals between the Smalls and the Isle of Wight, en route.

RESULTS:

Aim 1. (Figure 1). The 32 routine trawl stations, stratified by depth and area were completed. These hauls produced totals of 7811 0-group whiting, 604 1-group whiting, 15 0-group cod and 19 1-group cod. Provisional mean numbers per 1 hours fishing are given in the following Table:

Depth	Sector	Cod		Whiting	
		0-group	1-group	0-group	1-group
0-50m	NW	1.0	1.5	273.5	2.5
	NE	0.5	1.0	24.8	36.5
	SW	0.8	0.2	53.8	0.8
	SE	0.2	0.0	87.5	15.2
50+m	NW	0.8	0.0	920.0	23.8
	NE	0.5	0.2	593.0	68.0
	SW	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.2
	SE	0.0	0.0	0.2	4.0
Irish Sea Total		0.5	0.6	244.1	18.9

These results confirm last year's conclusion that the 1982 year class of both cod and whiting is poor. They also indicate that the 1983 year class of cod is poor but that of whiting is above average.

As well as the routine stations, 13 additional trawl hauls were made in the northern Irish Sea. Generally catches were light with the small gadoid, Trisopterus minutus, predominating. A good catch of large whiting (128 kg) was made 12 miles west of the Isle of Man and mackerel and scad were more common in the catches than on previous Irish Sea surveys. A total of 794 otoliths from eight species was collected in connection with the pre-recruit assessments and to augment the market sampling programme. Stratified samples of mackerel and scad were deep frozen; samples of fish were also collected for the laboratory's fish identification courses and for the Environmental Archeological Unit, York.

The shipboard computer was installed for the first time for this cruise and, during its limited use, it appeared to function satisfactorily. The full sampling programme, the increase in documentation and the present restrictions on overtime resulted in little of the data being keyed in during the cruise.

Aim 2. 1416 stomachs of 30 species of fish were examined, the most fully sampled species being whiting, lesser spotted dogfish and spurdog. Despite the occurrence of large numbers of 0-group whiting in some areas, predation on this species was rarely recorded.

Aim 3. Four trawl stations were carried out in Cardigan Bay. Catches were again light but, as in previous years, a good catch of Raja clavata (109 fish) was made in Muddy Hollow at the north end of the Bay.

Aim 4. About 50 live berried Nephrops were collected from the western Irish Sea and brought back to the laboratory.

Aim 5. (Figure 2) Nine neuston net samples were taken between the Smalls and the Isle of Wight. Catches were poor and no 0-group mackerel were found.

Aim 6. 18 samples of commercial size whiting, plaice and dabs were deep frozen for AEP2.

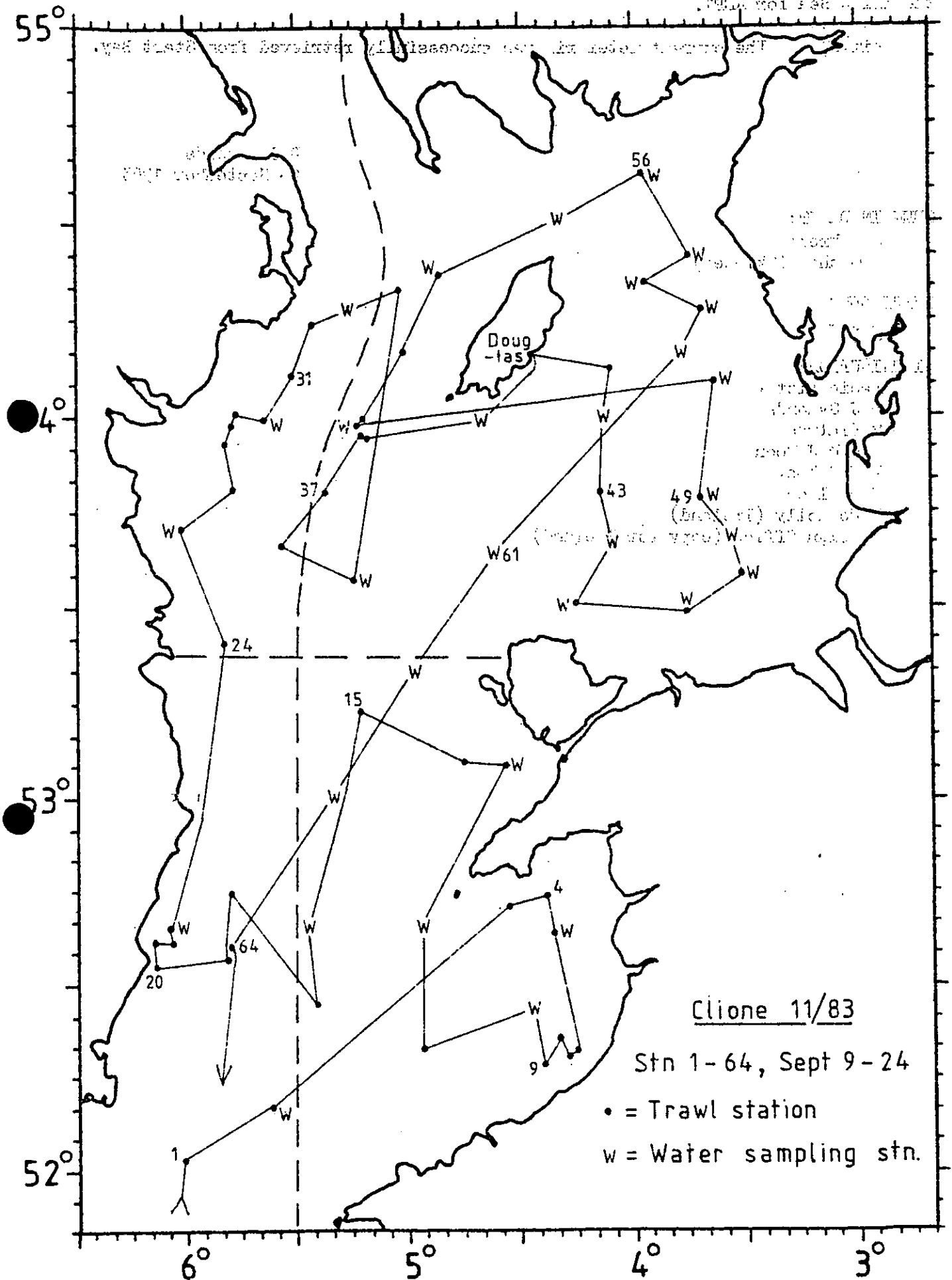


Fig. 1

Aim 7. 32 samples of surface seawater were collected at stations in the Irish Sea for AEP1.

Aim 8. The current meter rig was successfully retrieved from Start Bay.

D J Symonds
26 September 1983

SEEN IN DRAFT:

J R French
R Graham (Skipper)

INITIALLED:

D J G

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +
D J Symonds
S Flatman
Mrs M J Boon
D W Palmer
J M Elson
P Connolly (Ireland)
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17/11/1983

15-9-83, 16-9-83

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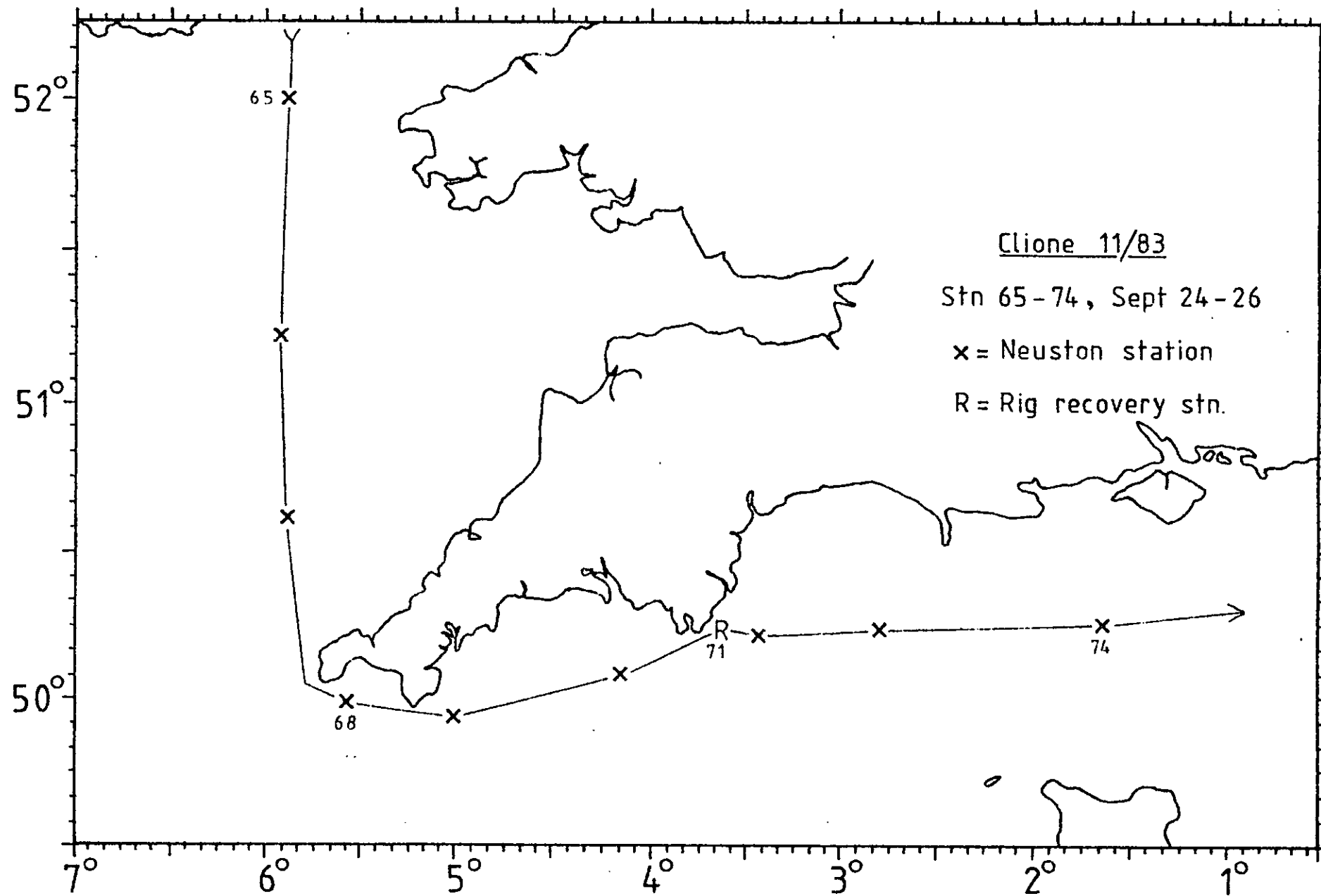


Fig. 2