

Survey report PLACES Haakon Mosby 8-23 March 2004

Survey

Participating in PLACES (Plaice and Cod Egg Survey) in the North Sea

Survey members

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Harbours and dates

Bergen 08-03-04 Bergen 22-03-04

Sampling and data

Haakon Mosby left Bergen on the 8th of March at 14 UTC. We went northward and started on the cruise leg at 61° 45' N (Fig. 1.). The first station was taken at midnight. The vessel continued westwards to 3° V and returned to the Norwegian coast along 61° 15' N. After this we went south to 58° 45' N due to bad weather. Here we managed to take a leg westward to 01° 15' V, where we were forced to go northward due to a heavy gale and strong currents. Then we took an eastward leg at 59° 15' N and a westward one at 59° 45' N and ended up with short north and southward legs back to the Norwegian coast. In spite of the bad weather a total of 99 stations were sampled.

The sampling procedure was as follows. After a CTD cast a double oblique haul down to 100m with a Gulf III was taken. The towing speed was 3 knots. After sampling, the codend of the torpedo was replaced with a clean one. The net was washed down with seawater and the codend was replaced again. After which the flowmeter was read. Both samples were washed with cold seawater into a large cup that was placed on ice. Small buckets of the sample was worked through under the microscope. Cod like eggs were placed in a small glass that was cooled with ice, and when we had sorted out 10 eggs they were staged, measured and fixated individually in ethanol. We presorted egg at every station with cod like eggs in the size range 1.1-1.75 mm. Approx 2000 eggs were presorted from 68 stations. A maximum of 60 eggs per station were individually stored. The remainder of the sample were put in buffered 4% formaline.

Few eggs were found in the eastern part of the area along the Norwegian coast and over the Norwegian trench. In the western parts of the area cod like eggs were found at most stations. In the northern parts of the covered area most of the eggs near to hatch (stage 5) seem to be saith, in the southern part haddock.

General

Bad weather during most of the cruise prevented us from covering all the stations and we concentrated the work within the North Sea. Therefore only a few stations west of Shetland were taken.

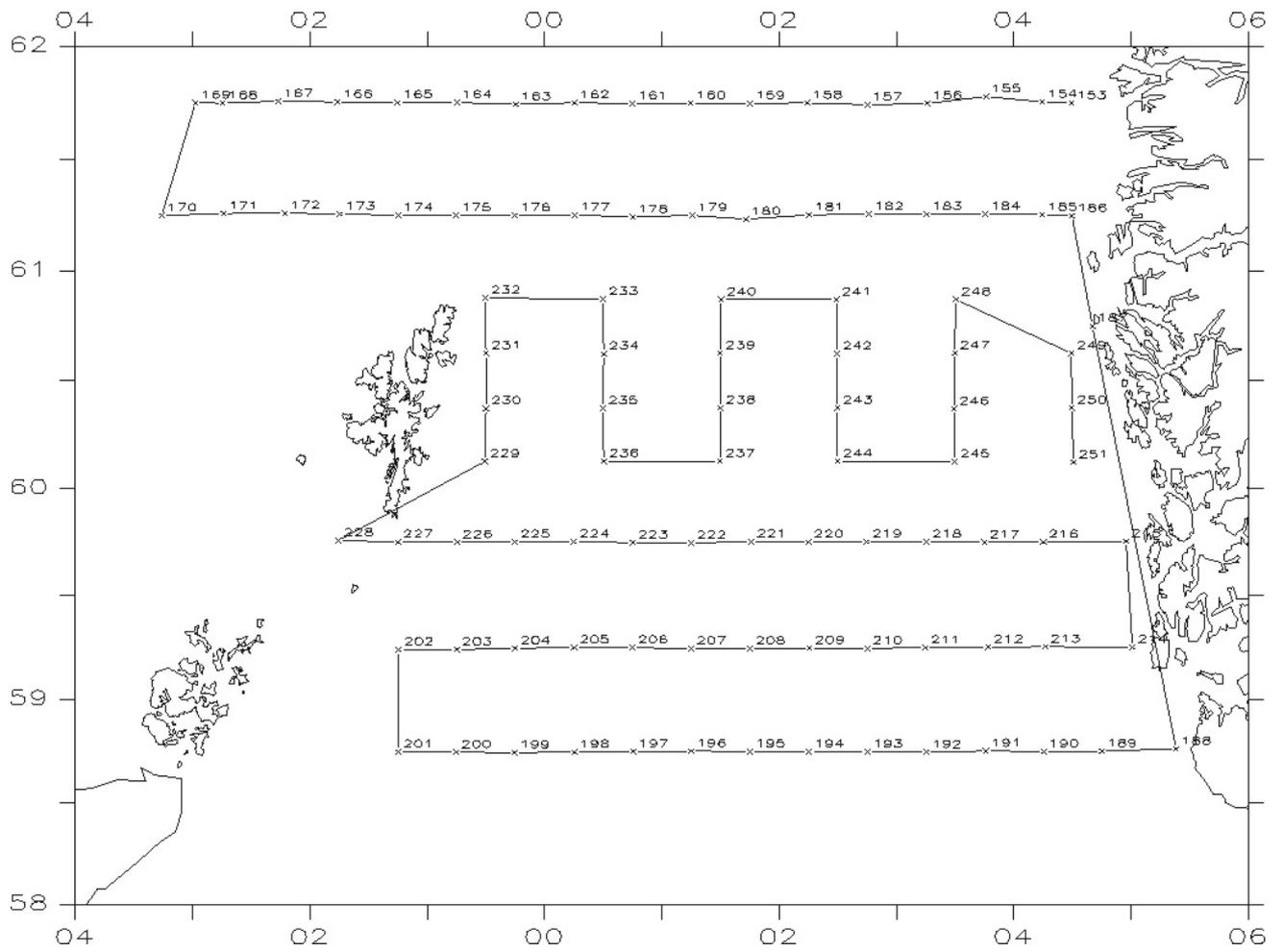


Fig. 1. Cruise tracks with RV "Haakon Mosby" during the period 8-23 March 2004