

CRUISE SUMMARY REPORT

FOR COLLATING CENTRE USE

Centre: DOD Ref. No.:

Is data exchange Yes In part No
restricted

SHIP enter the full name and international radio call sign of the ship from which the data were collected, and indicate the type of ship, for example, research ship; ship of opportunity, naval survey vessel; etc.

Name: FRV "Walther Herwig III"Call Sign: DBFRType of ship: Fisheries Research VesselCRUISE NO. / NAME WH253

enter the unique number, name or acronym assigned to the cruise (or cruise leg, if appropriate).

CRUISE PERIOD start 26/06/2003 to 13/07/2003 end
(set sail) day/ month/ year day/ month/ year (return to port)

PORT OF DEPARTURE (enter name and country) Bremerhaven (GER)PORT OF RETURN (enter name and country) Bremerhaven (GER)

RESPONSIBLE LABORATORY enter name and address of the laboratory responsible for coordinating the scientific planning of the cruise

Name: Institut für Seefischerei, Bundesforschungsanstalt für FischereiAddress: Palmaille 9, D-22767 HamburgCountry: Germany

CHIEF SCIENTIST(S) enter name and laboratory of the person(s) in charge of the scientific work (chief of mission) during the cruise.

Dr. Christopher Zimmermann, Institut für Seefischerei

OBJECTIVES AND BRIEF NARRATIVE OF CRUISE enter sufficient information about the purpose and nature of the cruise so as to provide the context in which the report data were collected.

Cruise WH253 was conducted in the framework of the international hydroacoustic survey on pelagic fish in the North Sea, which is co-ordinated by an ICES planning group. Further contributors to the quasi-synoptic survey are the national fisheries research institutes of Scotland, Norway, Denmark and The Netherlands. The results are delivered to the ICES herring assessment working group, they represent since 1984 the most important fishery independent data for the assessment of herring stocks in the area.

The working area for "Walther Herwig III" was confined to the South-Eastern North Sea between 52°N and 57°N, and the 20 m depth line off the English, Dutch, Danish and German coasts (see attached map).

Acoustic measurements were conducted between 0600 and 2200 on East-West or North-South transects with 15 or 30 nm spacing. For the identification of echo traces and further biological sampling, 27 hauls with a pelagic net were conducted. After each haul and at 65 additional stations, CTD profiles were recorded. The survey area was almost doubled as compared to last year's survey in an attempt to reach the southern summer distribution limit of sprat in the North Sea.

Objectives: Hydroacoustic recording of pelagic fish stocks, biological sampling for the verification of echoes, calibration of the hydroacoustic equipment, hydrographic investigations.

Narrative: FRV "Walther Herwig III" left the port of Bremerhaven on June 26th at noon, and calibrated the hydroacoustic equipment under favourable conditions in the morning of June 27th off Helgoland. Therefore, it was not necessary to sail to Kristiansand. Until July 4th, the vessel surveyed the eastern part of the area where mostly juvenile herring was expected. After an exchange of guest scientists on Helgoland, "Walther Herwig III" covered the remaining area with a wider transect spacing until July 12th. The vessel reached Bremerhaven on 13th July 2002 in the morning, having sailed 2569 nm.

An extended cruise report giving age disaggregated abundance and biomass of clupeids and detailed hydrographic data will be available after final data and sample evaluation in early December 2003. This report will be delivered to and published by the ICES Planning Group for Herring Surveys in January 2004.

TRACK CHART: You are strongly encouraged to submit, with the completed report, an annotated track chart illustrating the route followed and the points where measurements were taken.

Insert a tick(✓) in this box if a track chart is supplied



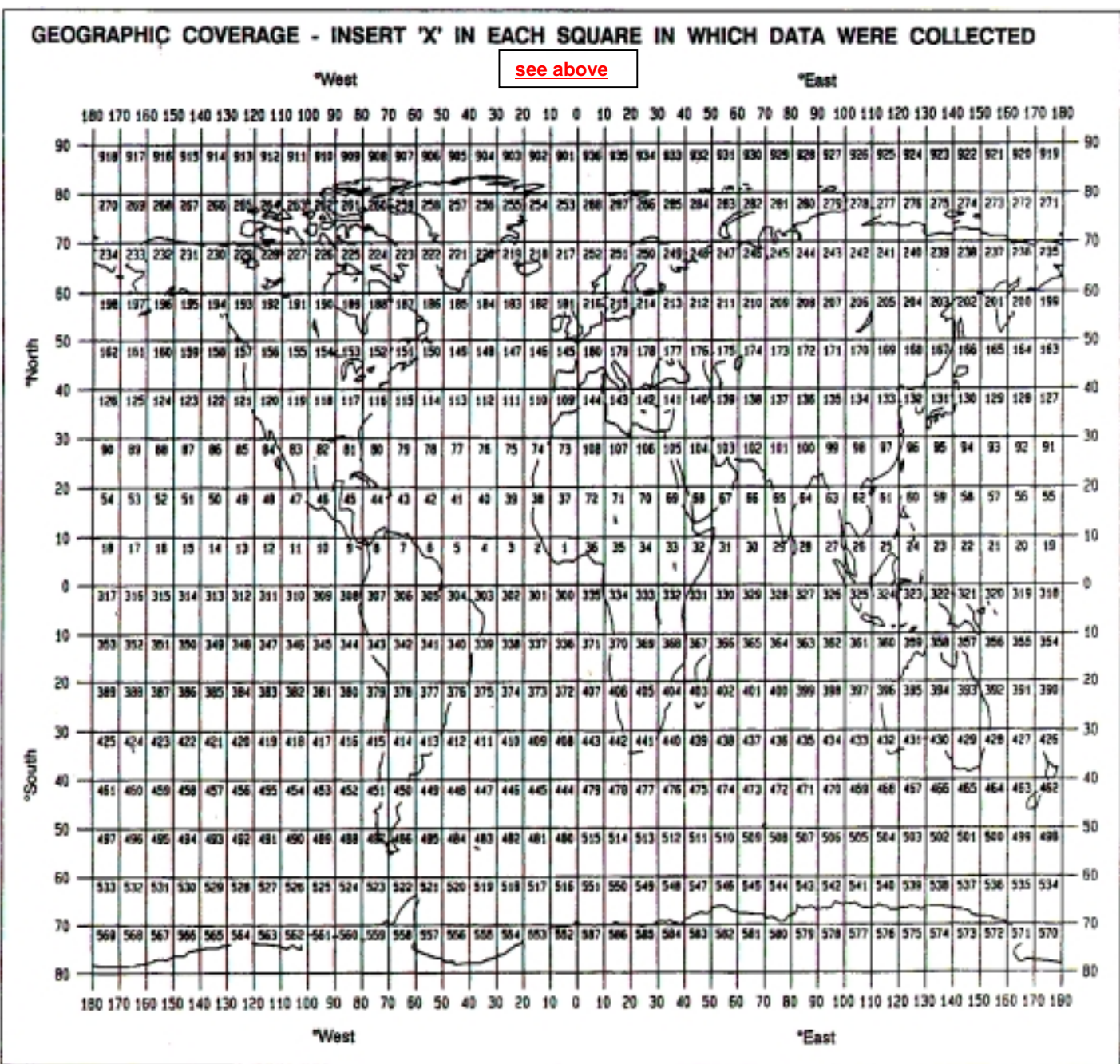
GENERAL OCEAN AREA(S): Enter the names of the oceans and/or seas in which data were collected during the cruise – please use commonly recognised names (see, for example, International Hydrographic Bureau Special Publication No. 23, 'Limits of Oceans and Seas').

North Sea

SPECIFIC AREAS: If the cruise activities were concentrated in a specific area(s) of an ocean or sea, then enter a description of the area(s). Such descriptions may include references to local geographic areas, to sea floor features, or to geographic coordinates.

Please insert here the number of each square in which data were collected from the below given chart

Southern North Sea, Dogger, German Bight, Fisher Field 216 only



THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

Please send your completed report without delay to the collating centre indicated on the cover page