

„SOLEA“
Cruise 853
REPORT
25.08. – 11.09.2025

Personnel

Name	Institution
Kay Panten	SF
Felix Bügler	SFA
Marsha Dechant	SF
Lizzy Draudt	SF
Karin Krüger	SF
Alexandra Poell	SF
Finn Werner	SF

Objectives

1. Participation in the ICES co-ordinated “International **B**eam **T**rawl **S**urvey” in the North Sea
2. Determination of temperature and salinity in the area of investigation

Narrative (Fig. 1)

The vessel set sail from Cuxhaven at 10:30 am on 25 August, shortly after being kitted out. Its destination was the Meerwind SÜD | OST wind farm to recover crab larvae collectors that had been deployed on the previous survey. Over the next two days, the southern stations were worked from east to west. On the third day, the western position was used to fish the Dogger Tail End FFH area, thus avoiding long steam stretches at the end of the trip. Over the next five days, with changing winds, the western stations as well as Jammer Bay and stations close to land off the Danish coast were covered before Esbjerg was called at as a port of refuge for two days due to a period of strong winds in the BTS survey area. After leaving the port on the evening of 4 September, the remaining

survey area was successfully fished. The voyage ended in Cuxhaven on the night of 11 September. The scientific participants returned to Bremerhaven in the early afternoon.

Results (Fig. 2 – 9)

A total of 63 valid BTS hauls with a standard duration of 30 minutes and 10 FFH hauls with a standard duration of 15 minutes were conducted with the 7m beam trawl. At 66 stations salinity and temperature were measured.

The distribution of species composition shows the usual geographic pattern with plaice as the most frequent fish species, followed by dab and lemon sole (offshore) or solenette (inshore).

Toward the north and the west soon the importance of long rough dab and starry ray in the biomass increases. Still, in the survey area some larger (up to 50 cm) plaice can be found, although quite sporadically.

Unusual this year was the strong presence of haddock and whiting in the beam trawl catches throughout the survey area.

In the FFH area surveyed "Dogger Tail End" nothing unusual was caught.



Dipl.-Biol. K. Panten

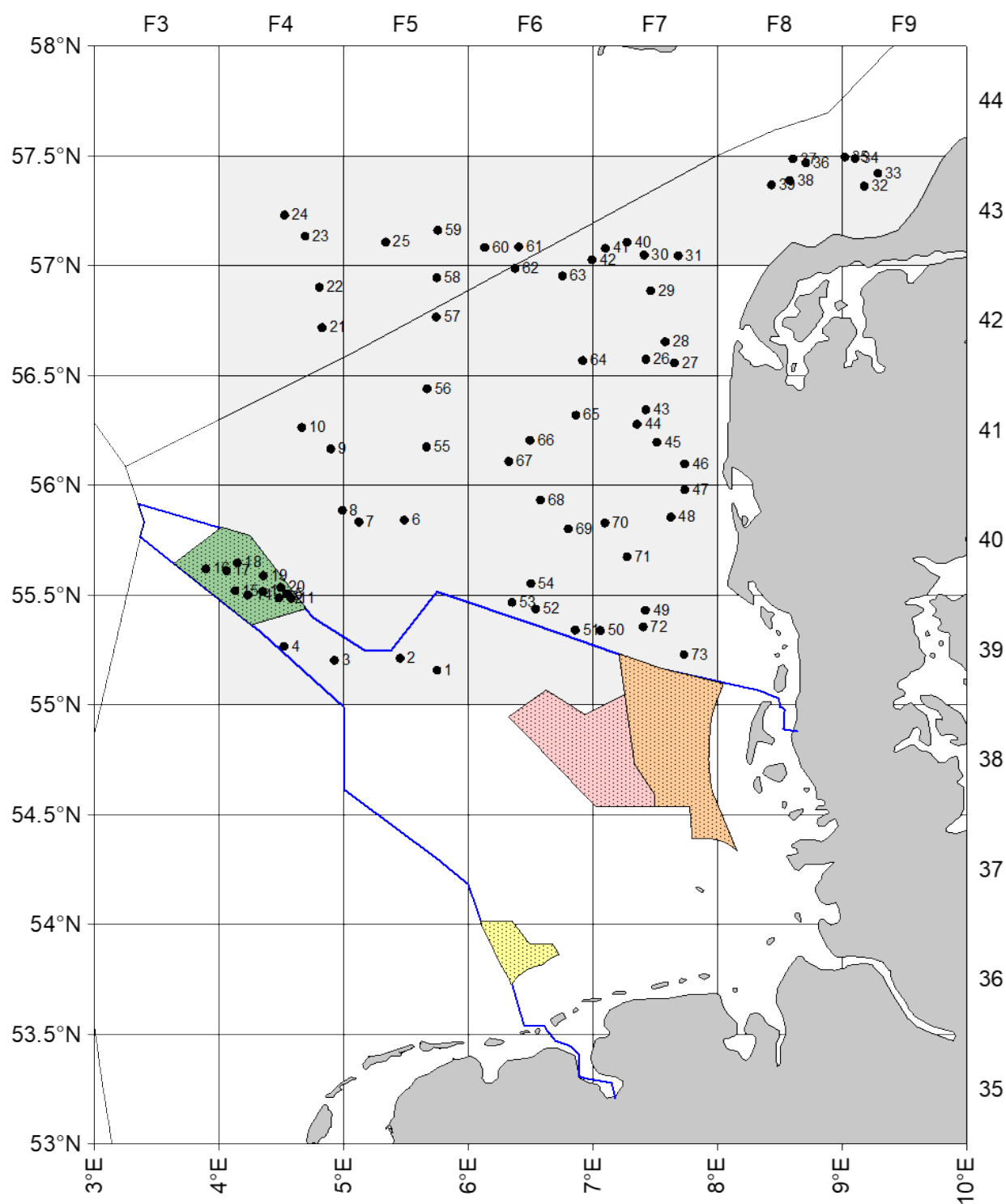


Fig. 1: "Solea", Cruise 853, Haul positions and area of investigation

Catch composition in kg and length distribution during Beam Trawl Survey

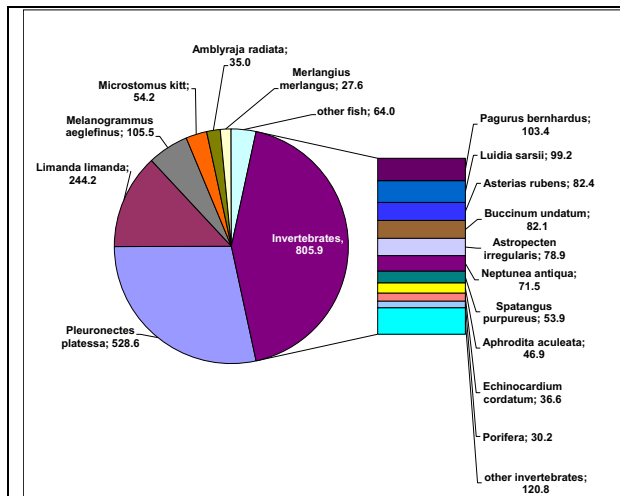


Fig. 2: Catch composition in 39-43F4&5 (offshore)

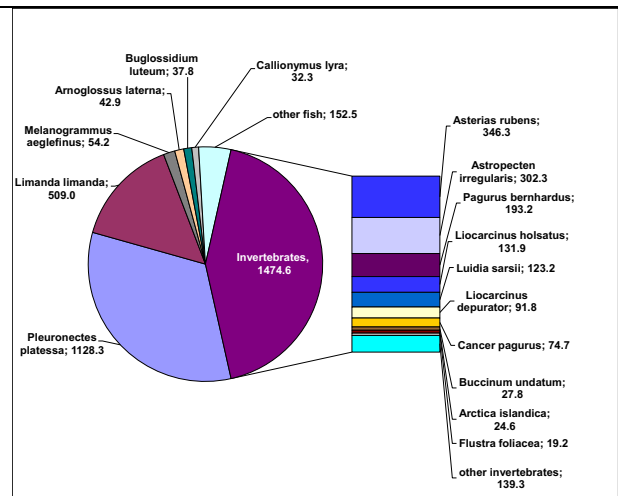


Fig. 3: Catch composition in 39-43F6&7, 43F8&9 (inshore)

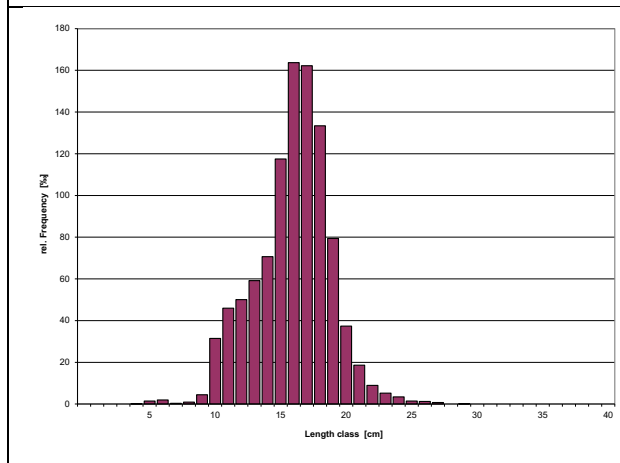


Fig. 4: Length distribution of Dab in 39-40F4&5

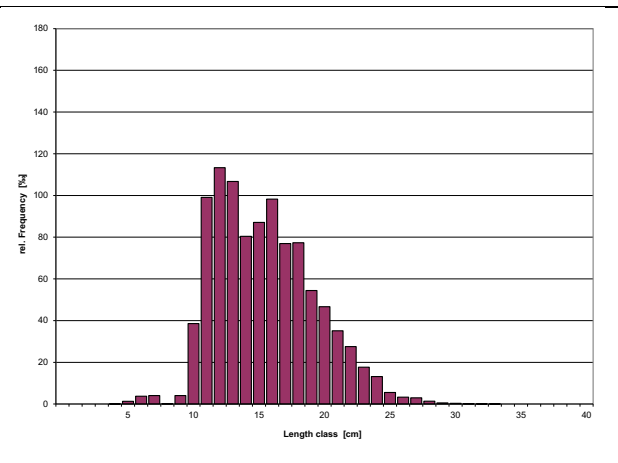


Fig. 5: Length distribution of Dab in 39-40F6&7, 43F8&9

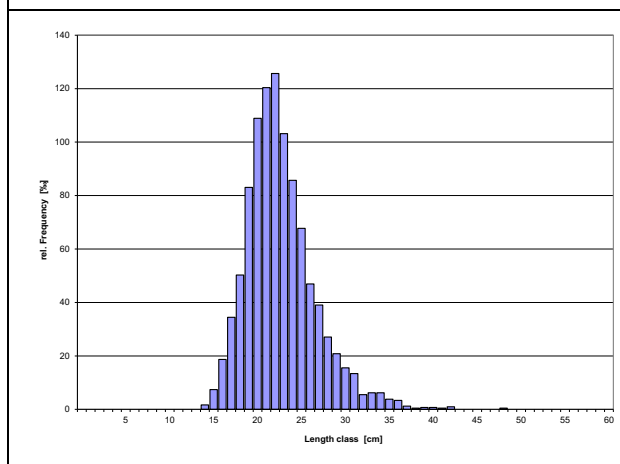


Fig. 6: Length distribution of Plaice in 39-40F4&5

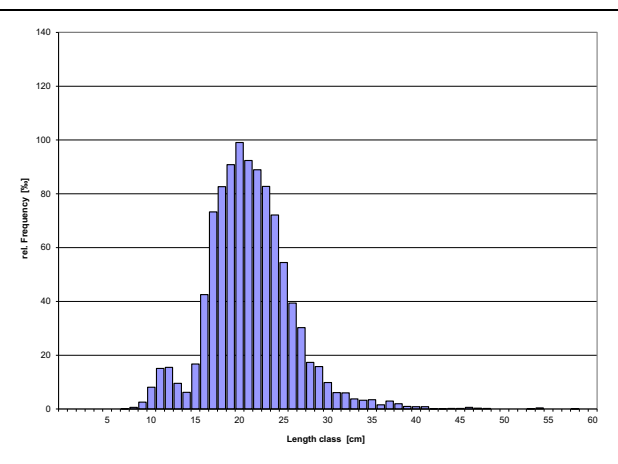


Fig. 7: Length distribution of Plaice in 39-40 F6&7, 43F8&9

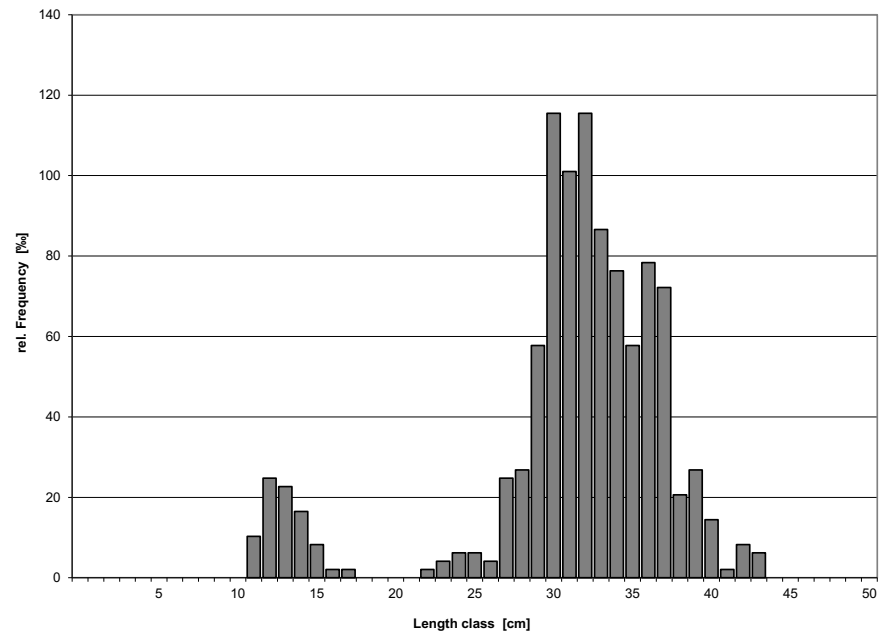


Fig. 8: Length distribution of Haddock in the whole study area

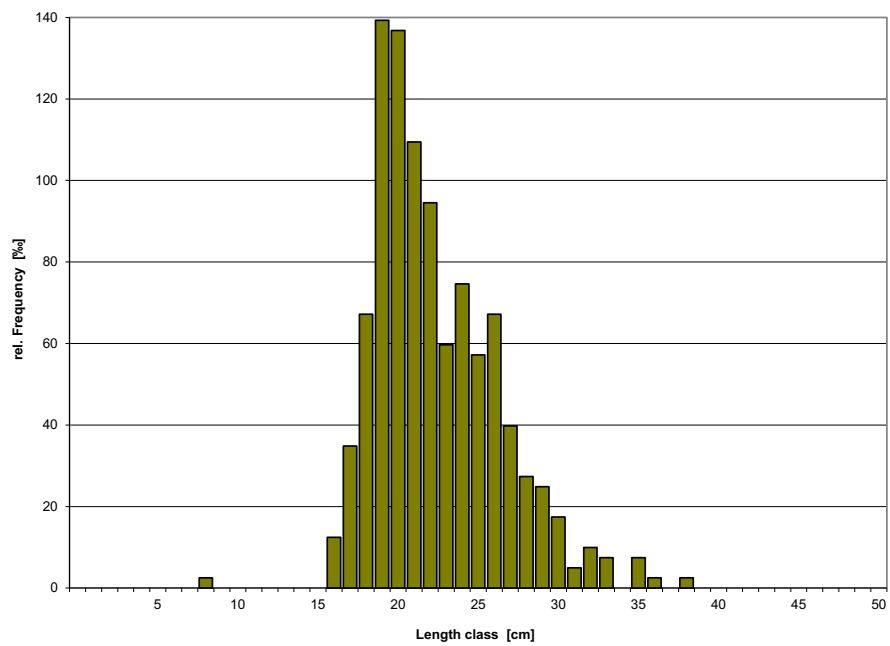


Fig. 9: Length distribution of Whiting in the whole study area

Catch composition during FFH Monitoring

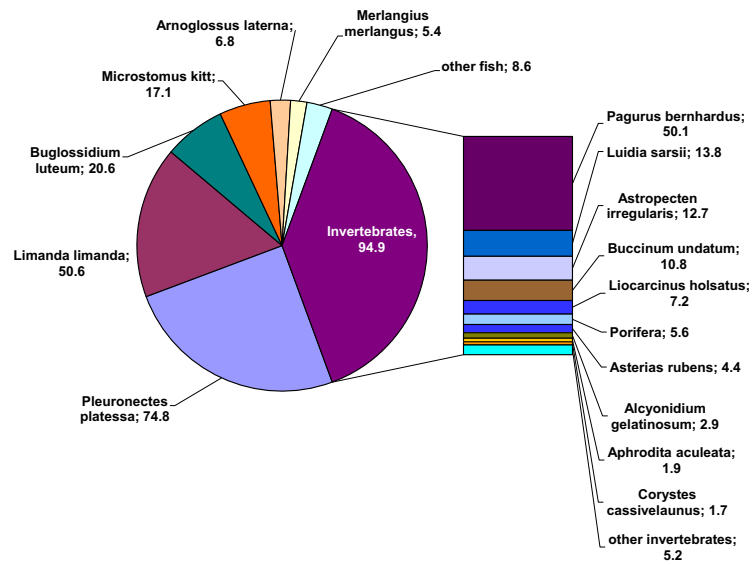


Fig. 10: Catch composition in FFH-Area „Dogger Tail End“