CRUISE SUMMARY REPORT

FOR COLLATING CENTRE USE

Centre: Ref. no:

Is data exchange restricted? ☐ Yes ☐ In part ☐ No

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: TRIDENS 2 Call Sign: PBVO

Type of ship: FISHERIES RESEARCH VESSEL

CRUISE NO./NAME 2026 IBTS –International Bottom Trawl Survey

CRUISE PERIOD	start (set sail)	19 day	01 month	2026 year	to	20 day	02 month	2026 year	end (return to port)

PORT OF DEPARTURE (enter name and country) SCHEVENINGEN, THE NETHERLANDS

PORT OF RETURN (enter name and country) SCHEVENINGEN, THE NETHERLANDS

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

Name: Wageningen Marine Research

Address: P.O. BOX 68
1970 AB IJMUIDEN
HARINGKADE 1

Country: THE NETHERLANDS

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

Ralf van Hal, Wageningen Marine Research

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 reported data were collected.

The IBTS is designed to acquire recruitment indices and tuning data for several finfish species. The recruitment indices are used in ICES assessment working groups (herring, North Sea demersal fish, mackerel). Data on spatial and temporal distribution of fish species are used for ecosystem studies.
Also Ichthyoplankton, Hydrography and seafloor litter data are collected.

PROJECT:

Project name: International Bottom Trawl Survey

Coordinating body: ICES International Council for Exploration of the Sea- Copenhagen

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:

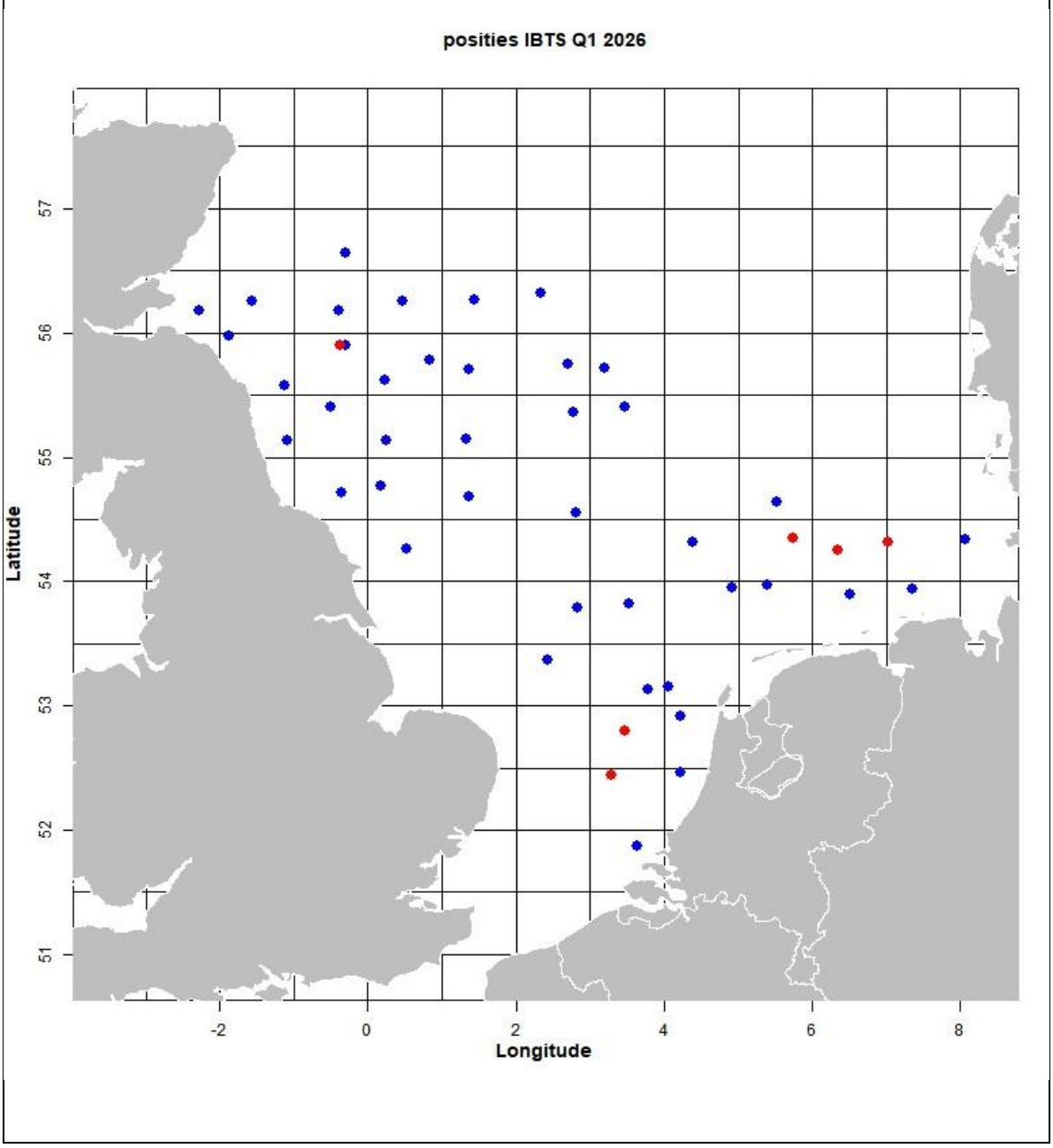
Ralf van Hal; ralf.vanhal@wur.nl

MOORINGS, BOTTOM MOUNTED GEAR AND DRIFTING SYSTEMS				
PI	APPROXIMATE POSITION		DESCRIPTION	
	Station-id ICES-rectang	latitude longitude	their depths, whether deployed and/or recovered, dates of deployment and/or recovery, and any identifiers given to the site.	

SUMMARY OF MEASURED AND SAMPLES TAKEN				
PI	NO	UNITS	DATA TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Ralf van Hal	110	Hauls	B13 Eggs and larvae	MIK (Method Isaac)
Ralf van Hal	48	Hauls	GO 14 Trawl	GOV (Grande Ouverture)
Ralf van Hal	42	Stations	Demersal fish H10	CTD Stations are 216 North Sea

GENERAL OCEAN AREA(S): '
Southern and Central North Sea (South of57°N

SPECIFIC AREAS:



GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE - INSERT 'X' IN EACH SQUARE IN WHICH DATA WERE COLLECTED

Summary

In 2026 the Dutch part of the International Bottom Trawl Survey in the first quarter (IBTS Ql) was carried out by Tridens II. The survey is part of the EU Data Collection Framework (DCF), and the statutory tasks of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. This report describes the survey results and contains the cruise report of the trip.

During the IBTS sampling takes place with a fishing gear (GOV) and a larvae and egg net (MIK-net). The data of the GOV catches are used for the ICES fish stock assessments for amongst others herring, cod, whiting, haddock and plaice. The data of the MIK-net catches are used for the stock assessments of herring. Furthermore, the data are used for other research concerning the North Sea ecosystem. Litter from the catches is sorted, categorized and registered. This information is collected for reporting under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

In the five weeks (weeks 4 to 8 2026) in which the Dutch IBTS was carried out, the stations could be sampled as internationally prescribed. In total 48 valid of the 49 planned stations with the GOV, and all planned (110) stations with the MIK net were sampled.

The results of the Dutch IBTS alone are difficult to compare directly with previous years due to the changes in the sampled area over time. In general, the same species have been observed. Remarkable were the large catches, especially of the commonly caught species larger catches were done than in recent years. Furthermore, the catches of horse mackerel, which occurred in a large number of hauls and in a single haul in very large numbers, were remarkable.