

Fish Commission of Oregon

Report of Cruise 70-1, Pre-season Albacore

Vessel: MV *Sunrise*, chartered fishing vessel.

Dates: July 3-11, 1971.

Objectives: 1. To detect oceanographic conditions favorable for albacore harvest, troll for albacore, and to report results to the fishing fleet.

2. To tag albacore to obtain migration information for albacore released off Oregon.

Methods: The vessel operated during daylight hours. The cruise track and sample stations are shown in Figure 1. Stations 20 through 22 were omitted due to adverse weather. A trolling speed of approximately 5 knots was maintained and jigs were fished over the entire track. At each of the 36 stations sampled, oceanographic data including surface temperature, salinity and sub-surface temperature-depth (XBT) profiles were obtained. Weather observations were also recorded.

Results: Water temperatures during the cruise ranged from 55.4° to 58.8° and averaged 57.4° F. Although the minimum temperature for successful albacore fishing is thought to be about 57° F, catches occurred throughout the cruise in relatively cold water (Figure 1). A total of 305 albacore were caught, mostly north of Coos Bay. The best catches occurred between stations 8 and 13 and between stations 34 and 39. Average temperatures in these areas were 57.9° and 57.6° F, respectively. This information was radioed to the fishing fleet daily and resulted in substantial early albacore effort off Oregon. Most albacore caught (96%) were about 12 to 13 pound fish (60 to 70 cm), but a few (4%) were larger (71 to 81 cm). These fish were of different age groups. Eighty-two albacore were tagged and released during the cruise.

Personnel: Rudy Lovvold, Skipper
Tom Lovvold, Crewman
Paul Reed, Biologist

Paul Reed
July 28, 1971

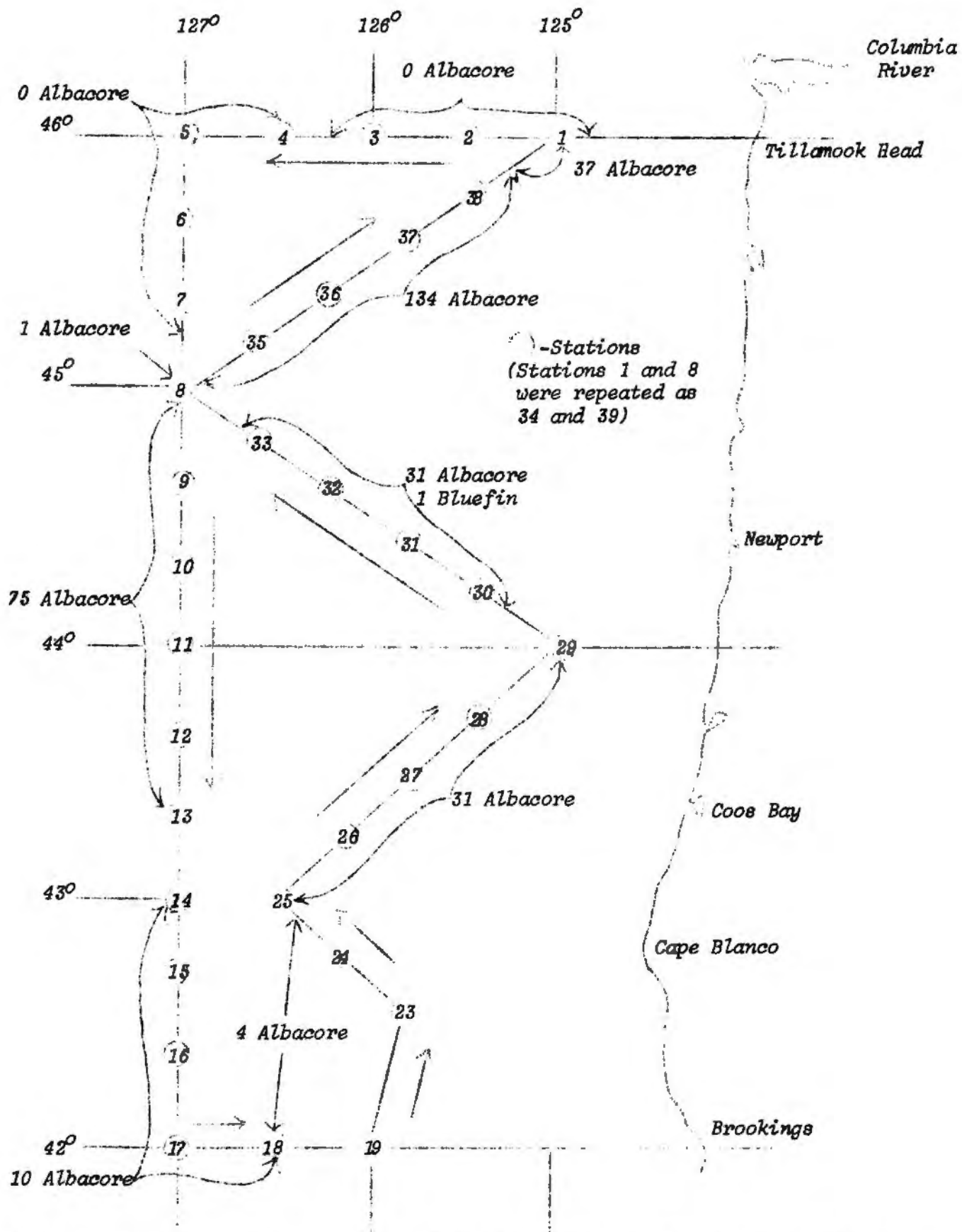


Figure 1. Cruise track, station locations and number of albacore caught each day during the 1971 pre-season cruise.