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FISH COMMISSION OF OREGON

Report of Cruise 74-6, Pre-season Albacore

Vessel: Defiant, chartered fishing vessel.

Dates: July 1-9, 1974

Objectives: To search for oceanographic conditions favorable for albacore, to fish for albacore, and to report the results to fishermen.

Methods: The cruise track line, sample station locations, and areas in which fish were caught are shown in Figure 1. Tuna jigs (usually 10 jigs) were trolled at a speed of approximately 5-6 knots over the entire track line, except between stations 32 and 34. At each of the stations, data such as surface temperature and salinity and weather observations were obtained. Subsurface temperature information was not obtained due to mechanical problems with the XBT. Daily radio broadcasts were made to distribute catch and weather information to fishermen.

Results: A total of 122 albacore were caught. Most of these were taken in the southern portion of the track line. One bluefin tuna was caught at station 11. The albacore ranged from 52 to 81 cm in fork length, with 86% of them being 59 to 68 cm. Surface water temperature ranged from 57.2 to 59.1°F and averaged 58.2°F. Ten albacore were tagged and released.

Personnel: Mike Haggran, Skipper
Gary Fallon, Crewman
Jerry Butler, Biologist

Jerry Butler
Pelagic Fish Investigations
Management & Research Division
July 25, 1974

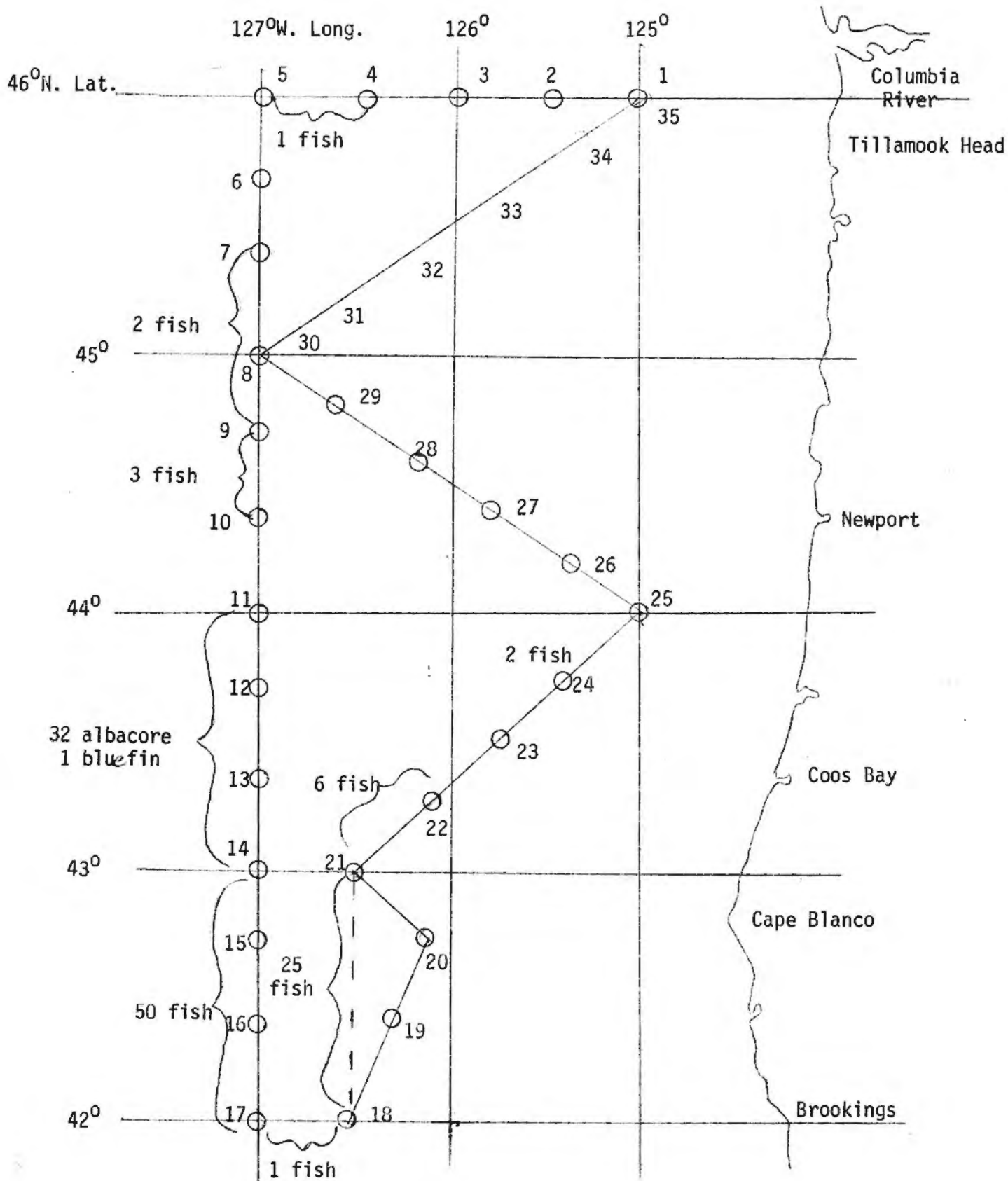


Figure 1. Cruise Track, Sample Station, and Catch Locations Where Tuna were Caught during the 1974 Pre-season Cruise.