

Lillamook JSC
13
86F
JJ
RH

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Report of Cruise 75-3, Pre-season Albacore

- Vessel:** Defiant, chartered fishing vessel
- Dates:** July 1-6 and July 7-11, 1975
- Objectives:** To search for oceanographic conditions favorable for albacore; to fish for albacore, to tag albacore when conditions were favorable, and to report the results of the cruise to the fishermen.
- Methods:** Departure was made on July 1, 1975 and the cruise proceeded as expected along the predetermined trackline for the first three days. Tuna jigs were trolled during daylight hours at speeds of five to seven knots, weather observations were made, surface temperature was taken and XBT probes were dropped to measure subsurface temperatures. Weather conditions forced us to leave the trackline on July 4th, and eventually forced us into port at Astoria on the 6th. The cruise was then continued on the 7th of July, and we worked backwards from sample station 35 to station 27. From station 27 we then cut across and covered stations 1-10 once again, and finished the cruise on July 11th. Again all required duties were carried out; daily radio broadcasts were made to distribute catch and weather information to the fishermen, surface temperatures were taken, etc. The cruise trackline, sample station locations, and areas in which fish were caught are displayed in Figure 1.
- Results:** A total of 42 albacore were caught and of those fish two were tagged and released. A total of 18 fish were measured and they ranged from 60cm - 80cm in fork length, and averaged 64cm. Of the fish measured 94% were between 60cm - 67cm. Surface water temperature ranged from 55.2° F - 60.6° F, and averaged 58° F. The second time stations 1-10 were covered the average temperature was 59° F, compared to an average of 57° F the first time. So it could be concluded that the warm water, which lures the albacore to this area, is moving up and the fish should be following close behind.
- Personnel:** Mike Haggran, Skipper
Paul Stevenson, Crewman
Tim Rymer, Biologist

Tim Rymer
Pelagic Fish Investigations
Management and Research Division
August 1, 1975

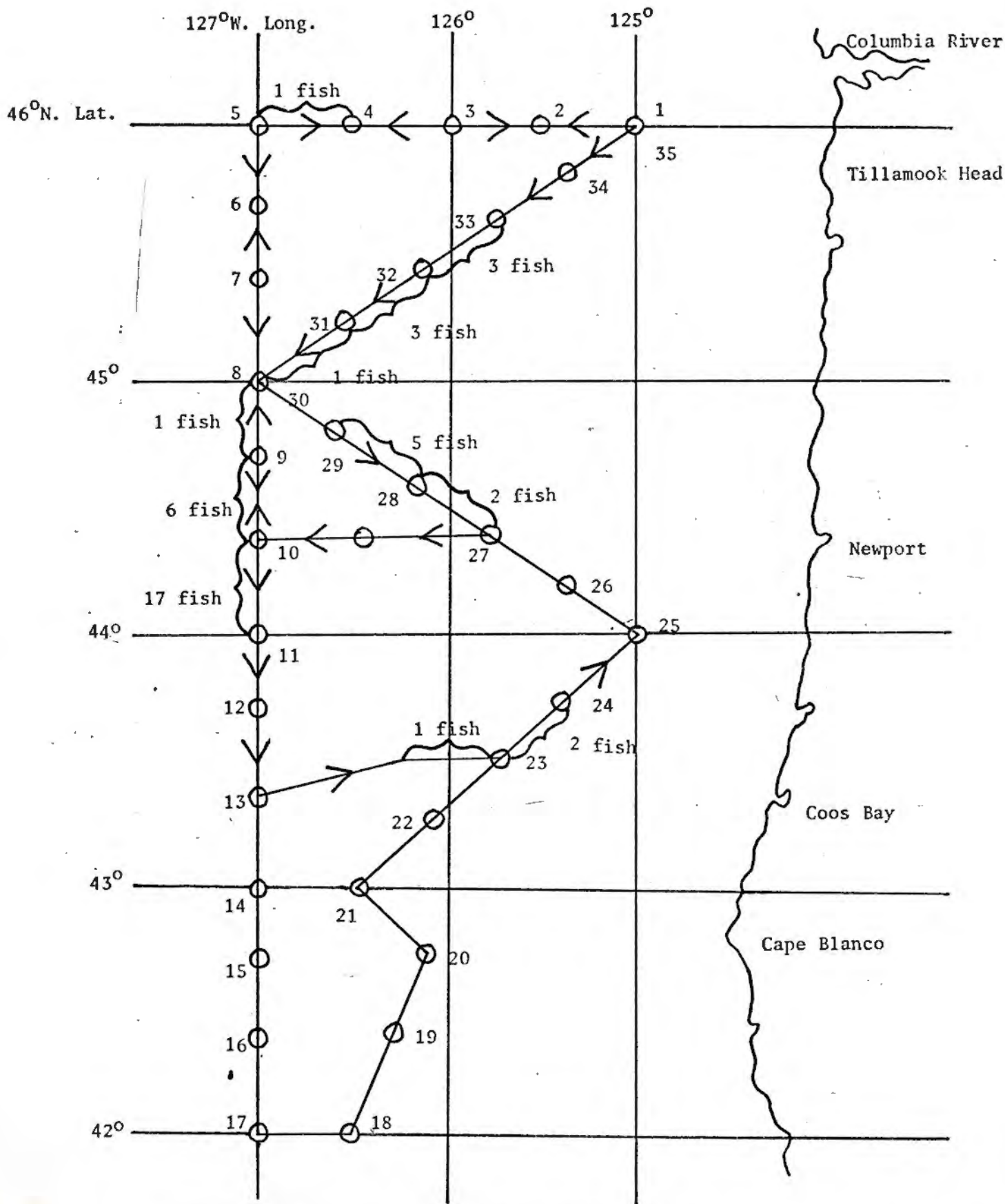


Figure 1. Cruise Trackline, Sample Stations, and locations where tuna were caught during the 1975 pre-season cruise.