

RV CLIONE

Report for Cruise 7/1969

Staff:

P O Johnson
B H Holford
J Dann

Duration:

17-24 July
(All times
BST)

Aims:

1. Echo- and trawl survey for concentrations of horse mackerel in the eastern half of the Southern Bight, from the Texel to the Schelde.
2. Collect samples of horse mackerel and sprat

Narrative:

CLIONE sailed from Lowestoft at 1100 hours on 17 July and proceeded towards the offshore Texel area to commence an echo- and fishing survey for horse mackerel and sprat. This continued until the morning of 19 July when weather conditions deteriorated and it was decided to dock in IJmuiden until these improved. CLIONE sailed the following morning at 1230 hours and resumed the survey. Over the next few days this covered the Southern Bight south to the Hinder region and offshore Thames. The final day (23 July) was devoted to a detailed survey in the Smith's Knoll area. CLIONE then anchored overnight in Corton Roads and berthed at Lowestoft at 0620 hours on 24 July.

Results:

1. No commercially exploitable concentrations of horse mackerel were located. The best catches only amounted to a few baskets per hour tow, these being taken about 35 miles off Texel and near Smith's Knoll.
2. Sprats were fairly widely distributed, the main concentrations being towards the English coast, particularly in the deeper water immediately offshore from the Thames and between Smith's Knoll and the coast. In the latter region catches of about 2 tons per hour tow were taken with the Engels mid-water trawl.
3. Samples of sprat, horse mackerel and mackerel were deep frozen and brought back to the laboratory for further examination.

P O Johnson
25 July 1969

Seen in draft:

M R Sutcliffe
H A Cole

Distribution:

Basic list, plus the following:

Scientific staff on cruise

Dr Johnson
Mr Holford
Mr Dann