

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
FISHERIES LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND

1979 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV TELLINA: CRUISE 2

(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF:

P D Wallace	(Part 1)
R B Cross	(" ")
I L Davies	(Part 2)
T Watson	(" ")

DURATION:

Left Lowestoft 0830 h, 17 April

Arrived Lowestoft 1230 h, 11 May

LOCALITY:

East coast Inshore area, Southern North Sea, East English Channel.

AIMS:

1. To repeat previous groundfish surveys in the area between 51°N and 53°N.
2. To collect length compositions and otoliths of plaice, sole, cod and rays as a supplement to the market sampling programme.
3. To carry out trawl hauls on different sediment types.
4. To tag 1 group cod.

NARRATIVE:

TELLINA left Lowestoft at 0830 h, 18 April and docked at Ipswich at 2000 h having completed two survey hauls on the way. Work continued on a daily basis until 23 April when all the hauls in the immediate area had been completed and TELLINA returned to Lowestoft docking at 1530 h 23 April. Work then continued from Lowestoft until 27 April when the mid-trip break was taken.

It was not possible to work on 30 April because of N.W. gales. TELLINA worked from Lowestoft on 1 May and next day steamed down to Ipswich fishing on the way. On the next two days she completed the groundfish survey before proceeding to Ramsgate.

Cod were tagged off Folkestone on 5 and 6 May. Hauls were made on 7 May off Ramsgate near the Tongue Light Vessel and on the Red Sand en route to Gillingham, but insufficient cod suitable for tagging were caught on these grounds to warrant staying. Work was carried out off Shoeburyness on 8 and 9 May. TELLINA returned to Lowestoft on 10 May trawling at Covehithe and Pakefield on the way. Further trawling was carried out at Pakefield on 11 May.

RESULTS:

1. All the 24 survey hauls of the standard groundfish survey between 51°N and 53°N were successfully completed using bobbin gear. All hauls were of one hour's duration.

2. All plaice, soles, cod, whiting and rays caught were measured and otolith samples taken as follows:-

Whiting	170
Plaice	29
Sole	44
Cod	70
Lemon Sole	10
Brill	1
Turbot	1

The stomach contents and maturity stages of all otolithed fish were recorded.

3. Replicate trawl hauls were carried out on five different sediment types.

4. It had been noted that more than half of the recaptures of the cod tagged in Rye Bay in February 1977 were reported by shore workers after the fish had been landed and sold. It was thus assumed that the small HOWITT tag normally inserted between the first and second dorsal fin was not being noticed when the fish was being gutted and cleaned. On this trip it was decided to use various tagging positions on the fish to see if this would increase the chance of detection of the tag at the time of recapture. The first cod was tagged in the normal position, the next fish was tagged between the anal fins and the third fish was tagged on the left operculum and so on in sequence. 62, 1 group cod were tagged off Folkestone, 36 off Shoeburyness, 3 at Covehithe and 14 at Pakefield.

I L Davies
P D Wallace
23 May 1979

SEEN IN DRAFT: AP

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List

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T Watson
R B Cross
Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee
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