

R.V. TELLINAReport for Cruise 3, Part 2, 1968

Staff: J. D. Riley  
G. T. Thacker

Duration: 9, 12 and 13 February.

Aim

To collect live fish for experimental work.

Narrative

Working conditions were dominated by continuous easterly or southeasterly winds. No work was possible on the 9th. Catches on 12th (J.D.R.) and 13th (G.T.T.) were very poor as is usual with longshore boats with the wind in this quarter.

On the 12th two otter trawl hauls of about 1 hour were made in 10-12 fathoms on grounds on the south of the Newcome which usually yield quantities of flounder, but none was caught. Two cod, two whiting, three immature dabs and one ripening female plaice was the total catch. Water temperature 4.2°C.

On the 13th three tows were made:-

(1) Shot Decca R17.5J x G40.25C towing S.S.W. in 18-20F; T °C 4.6. Catch, 2 cod, 1 whiting, 2 small rays.

(2) Shot Decca R6.2J x G45.8C towing N.E. T °C 4.6. 29 fathoms. Catch, 2 cod, 1 plaice female spent, part whiting, 1 large thornback, 4 small rays.

(3) Shot R17.7J x G39.5C, 15 fathoms towing North. Came fast on wreck after 20 minutes.

Results

None of the required fish were caught. Fish become unavailable to otter trawls with easterly winds over these grounds and opinion seems to be divided as to the reason for this, the movement of the flat-fish being variously described as "offshore", "to deeper water", "into midwater above the stirred up mud" and "buried in the bottom". Given the opportunity this problem will be investigated. Collections of fish with conventional otter trawls during a period of easterly winds is not likely to be productive on these grounds.

J. D. Riley  
21/2/68

Seen in draft: W.B.

Initialled: D.H.C.

Distribution:-

Basic list plus the following:-

J. D. Riley