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

1976 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV TELLINA: CRUISE 3

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

STAFF

R S Millner
J R Joyce

DURATION

19-24 February

LOCALITY

Off Southwold

AIMS

1. To continue the benthos survey of the Southwold-Thorpness dredging grounds.
2. To sample gut contents of demersal fish species.

NARRATIVE

Bad weather at the beginning of February meant that Cruises 2 and 3 were run together. The first day of Cruise 3 was spent taking grab samples on and around the spoil dumping ground off Lowestoft, and on 25 and 28 February water samples and tidal velocity profiles were obtained over two 13 hour periods. With an improvement in the weather 15 stations on the dredging ground off Southwold were extensively sampled using a 2-metre beam trawl, and samples of the bottom sediment were collected by grabbing. A box trawl was then used to obtain bottom feeding fish for the analysis of stomach contents.

In addition to this work, two buoys were laid 300 metres due south and north-east respectively of the DATA Buoy and a new young fish trawl was given a trial run.

RESULTS

1. Epibenthos on the dredging ground and control area were sampled by 3 hauls across each of 16 main stations. No change in the numbers of the dominant species appears to have taken place.
2. A total of 68 stomachs were obtained from cod, whiting, pout whiting and a variety of flatfish, for analysis of gut contents.
3. Sediment samples were collected for comparison with material obtained before dredging started.

R S Millner
3 March 1976

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