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

1979 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV TELLINA: CRUISE 4  
(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF

T W Boon  
S Warnes  
A J Briggs (25 July only)

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 0845 h 5 July  
Arrived Lowestoft 1315 h 25 July  
All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY

English East Coast

AIM

To investigate the distribution and abundance of young herring of the 1978 year-class along the English east coast from the Farne Islands to Dungeness.

NARRATIVE

TELLINA sailed from Lowestoft at 0845 h 5 July and made passage northwards in good weather, enabling fishing operations to begin at Blyth at 1230 h next day, 6 July. Trawl winch breakdown then caused a delay, the survey re-commencing at 1320 h 8 July and during the next 6 days the portion between the Farne Islands and Lowestoft was completed. TELLINA docked at Lowestoft for the mid-trip break at 1225 h 14 July. TELLINA sailed again from Lowestoft to complete the last part of the survey at 0745 h 17 July and during the following 5 days all the work between Lowestoft and Dungeness was carried out. On 23 July a station off Winterton left out on the first part, was completed and during 24-25 July a number of comparative hauls were made, with the mid-water trawl, off Benacre Ness. The cruise was terminated when TELLINA docked at 1315 h 25 July.

RESULTS

Along the northeast English coast 0-group herring were not encountered in any quantity further north than Scarborough, but between Scarborough and the Wash they were taken at every trawl station, sometimes in substantial numbers. Further south along the East Anglian coast and in the Thames Estuary catches were better than for many years and in fact the overall abundance here was higher than for any year since 1971.

It may be concluded that the 1978 year class of North Sea herring, although perhaps of only moderate strength in the Bank stock is relatively quite a strong one in the Downs stock, in addition there is now a definite indication of a recovery, at least in this component of the North Sea herring population.

T W Boon  
30 July 1979

SEEN IN DRAFT: A Pearson

INITIALLED: AJL

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