

Library

R. V. TELLINA

Report for Cruise 5/1968

Staff:- J. D. Riley
R. C. A. Bannister (part-time)
J. R. J. Tipple (part-time)

Duration:- 4-12 March

Locality

Suffolk coast.

Aims

1. To make a complete routine survey of Sizewell Bank for 1-group sole using the standard 2 m beam trawl.
2. To carry out comparative fishing trials using the 2 m beam trawl, modifications of this trawl and the 2 m Agassiz trawl.
3. To release seabed and surface drifters.
4. To collect adult flatfish for hatchery use.
5. To make an Otter trawl survey for larger sole off Sizewell.

Narrative

On 4 and 5 March maturing flounders were collected near the Barnard but a search further south and east failed to find useful numbers of the other species required. 6 and 7 March were lost due to bad weather. On 8 March the routine survey of Sizewell Bank for 1-group sole was completed with the standard 2 m beam trawl and a second 2 m trawl with a much heavier and spiked tickler chain.

After a further period of bad and indifferent weather when only Otter trawling was possible, the survey of Sizewell Bank was repeated on 12 March using the standard 2 m beam trawl and the 2 m Agassiz, used together.

Results

1. The routine surveys using the 2 m beam trawl on 8 and 12 March both produced much lower numbers of all 0-group and 1-group flatfish than were found in December, 1967.
2. The surveys with the heavier tickler chains and the Agassiz trawl, which were undertaken to discover whether the young flatfish were more deeply buried, did not produce more 1-group sole than the standard 2 m beam trawl.
3. Seabed and surface drifters were released at low water on 8 March and at high water on 12 March.
4. All the adult flounders required by Dr. Purdom and Mr. Riley were collected but no maturing dab or sole were found within the inshore grounds fished.
5. Otter trawling off Sizewell Bank in 6, 9 and 21 fathoms produced no adult sole.

Seen in draft:- W. B.

J. D. Riley
18/3/68

Initialled:- A. J. L.

Distribution:- Basic list, plus the following:-

Mr. Riley
Mr. Bannister
Mr. Tipple