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

1978 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV TELLINA: CRUISE 7

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

STAFF:

R J Wood (31 July-15 August)  
T W Boon (26 July-6 August)  
S Warnes (26-31 July and 9-15 August)

DURATION:

Left Lowestoft 0900 h, 26 July

Arrived Lowestoft 1425 h, 15 August

All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY:

English East Coast

AIM:

To investigate the distribution and abundance of young herring of the 1977 year-class along the English east coast from the Farne Islands to Dungeness.

NARRATIVE:

TELLINA sailed from Lowestoft at 0900 h, 26 July, but after completing one trawl station off Great Yarmouth was forced to return to Lowestoft at 1300 h, by adverse weather conditions. TELLINA sailed again at 0730 h, 27 July and made passage northwards in good weather, which enabled fishing operations to begin at Blyth at 1400 h next day 28 July. During the next 9 days the survey was completed between the Farne Islands and Lowestoft, TELLINA docking at Lowestoft for the mid-trip break at 1030 h, 6 August. TELLINA sailed from Lowestoft to complete the last part of the survey at 0815 h, 9 August and during the following 5 days practically all the work between Lowestoft and Dungeness was carried out in very good weather conditions. TELLINA made a quick passage from Ramsgate to Lowestoft on Sunday 13 August in order to get the mate, whose wife had been taken ill, home as soon as practicable. One trawl station was worked en route but two remaining stations in the North Thames were not completed. A number of comparative hauls were made with the mid-water trawl off Great Yarmouth on 15 August and the cruise was terminated when TELLINA docked at 1425 h that day.

RESULTS:

Along the northeast English coast catches of 0-group herring of the 1977 year-class were generally very good, and at two stations, off Whitby and Dimlington Highland (just north of Spurn Point), the catch rates were the highest ever obtained during the 14 years covered by these surveys.

Further south along the East Anglian coast and in the Thames Estuary, although the catches overall were the best for 5 years they were still at a relatively

very low level.

It may be concluded: 1. that the 1977 year-class of North Sea herring is at the least a good one in the Bank stock, although weak in the Downs stock, 2. that the overall herring by-catch in any sprat fishery taking place off the northeast English coast next winter, will be of the order of 20% by weight, and therefore well above the legal limit permitted.

R J Wood  
25.8.78

SEEN IN DRAFT: AP

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List

R J Wood  
T W Boon  
S Warnes