

Provisional: not to be quoted without reference to the writer

R. V. TELLINA

Report of Cruise 7b/1967

Staff:

M. J. Holden (26 Aug-6 Sept)
C. N. Humphreys
B. Coulson (21-25 Aug.)

Duration:

21 August-6 September

Aim:

To investigate hook selectivity for spurdogs.

Narrative:

The ship sailed from Lowestoft at 0930 hr/21st and started fishing off Hartlepool on 22nd. Two areas, which had been marked as good grounds for spurdogs by a liner skipper, were searched using rod and line. When spurdogs were located two fleets of lines were shot. Each line had 50 hooks and a fleet consisted of five lines of hook sizes numbers 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. This procedure was followed each day. Although spurdogs were found each day off Hartlepool they were patchy and difficult to locate, and on 28th it was decided to leave for another area south-east of Withernsea. Spurdogs were much more abundant here initially, but the catch rate fell away after 29th. Some difficulty was experienced with the strengthening tidal currents and on 1st an anchor and one line were lost. Trawl hauls were made in the vicinity of the lines off Withernsea in order to compare line and trawl catches. The ground off Hartlepool was too rough for trawling.

On 2nd searching started in company with the M. V. BETTY in poor weather conditions. Neither vessel caught any spurdogs and the skipper of the M. V. BETTY informed us that the area would be unworkable after the 2nd because the tides would be too strong. In view of this, the lack of spurdogs and the deteriorating weather, it was decided to sail for Lowestoft which was reached at 2100 hr. Winds up to gale force prevented the ship sailing again.

Results:

The mean size of fish did not appear to differ significantly with hook size for either of the two areas worked, although the mean size was different for the two areas, 72 cm off Hartlepool and 62 cm off Withernsea. However, the relative hooking rate did alter with mean fish size:

	Percentage hooking rate				
Hook size	5	6	7	8	9
Hartlepool	32	35	37	30	28
Withernsea	24	29	34	33	38

Insufficient spurdogs were caught in the trawl hauls to provide any comparison of catches by the two gears.

115 spines were taken for age determination.

Off Hartlepool large cod were plentiful while off Withernsea small codling of the 1966 year-class were abundant.

M. J. Holden
6 September 1967

Seen in draft: W.B.

Initialed: D.H.C.

Distribution: See overleaf

Distribution:

Dr. Cole
Mr. Lee
Capt. Aldiss
Dr. Cushing
Mr. Burd
Mr. Hill
Mr. Bolster
Mr. Cattley
Mr. Corlett
Mr. Garrod
Dr. Harden Jones
Mr. Iles
Dr. Jamieson
Mr. Margetts
Mr. Trout
Mr. Holden
Dr. Purdom
Mr. Bridger
Mr. Mitson
Mr. Tungate
Mr. Williams
Mr. Wood
Mr. Adams
Mr. Mills
Mr. Kay
Miss Conolly
General Lab.
Lab. Registry
Library (2)
Mr. Whiting
Mr. Simpson
Dr. Reynolds
Chief Inspector
All District Inspectors
Fisheries Registry
Skipper Burroughs
Mr. Buchanan Wollaston
Mr. W. Baird, D.A.F.S.
Mr. Glover
Hydrographic Department
Dr. Lucas
Director, N.I.O.
Dr. Peachey
Mr. Shelbourne
W.F.A.
British Trawlers' Federation

Mr. Humphreys
Mr. Coulson