

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

1978 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT A: RV TELLINA: CRUISE 8

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

STAFF

Part 1: J D Riley (NIC)
S Flatman

Part 2: T Hulme
C Garrod

DURATION

Part 1: 6-19 September, left Lowestoft 0930 6.9.78, Docked Lowestoft
1430 h 19.10.78.

Part 2: 20 September - 3 October, left Lowestoft 0915 h 20.9.78.
Docked Lowestoft 1515 h 3.10.78.

REPORT B: Fishnet team - land based.

STAFF

M L White
R B Cross

DURATION

1-18 September

LOCALITY

A and B: Humber to N Foreland, English east coast.

AIMS

A and B: To carry out a survey of 0 & I-group flatfish using the
standard 2 m beam trawl and 1½ m push net.

A only: 1. To collect six I-group sole, preserved, from the Thames
for D Bucke (FDL).

2. To collect 0-group sole for laboratory tagging tests, for
D Symonds (FSM 3).

NARRATIVE

A: RV TELLINA

After leaving Lowestoft, the Thames area was sampled between 6 and
14 September. On 9 September Mr M Andrews of the Thames Water Authority
was aboard for a series of beam trawl tows upstream of Tilbury Power
Station. One day was lost due to gale force winds but by 19 September 59
of the 60 stations to the south of Lowestoft had been completed with no
significant damage to the sampling trawls.

The mid-cruise break was taken over the weekend 16-17 September. After the staff changes TELLINA sailed northwards on 20 September sampling off Hemsby and Mablethorpe before docking in Grimsby. On 22 and 23 September the stations in the Humber area were completed. 24 September was lost due to bad weather. On 25 September TELLINA left Grimsby and began sampling stations in the Wash and working out of Boston completed these by the 27th. Four days were then lost due to strong winds and it was not until 0600 h on 2 October that TELLINA sailed from Boston for Lowestoft sampling in the outer Wash and off Wells. en route. On 3 October two stations were sampled off Scroby Sands.

B. Push net team.

The North coast of Kent was sampled at 7 places between 1 and 3 September and the coast of Essex and Suffolk at 8 places between 3 and 6 September. The coast of Norfolk was sampled at 6 places on 7, 8 and 9 September and the coasts of Lincolnshire and S Humberside at 3 places on the 10 and 11 September. The sampling postponed due to contrary tides at Great Yarmouth, was completed on 18 September.

RESULTS

1. The 0 and I-group survey of plaice, sole and turbot was completed in a most satisfactory manner. Only 7 stations were not sampled out of a possible 134 from RV TELLINA (6 of these were subsequently completed by RV NUCELLA). 25 push-net stations were completed. Catches of 0-group plaice were very low, the lowest since 1973 when regular sampling was started. Turbot catches, taken exclusively in the push-net, were also low. Catches of 0-group sole were however apparently, at or above the average of the last few years. For the 1978 assessment these results will be complemented by catch data from P Walker (FSM 1) for the area between the Humber and the Scottish border.
2. A sample of six I-group sole were collected in the Thames and preserved for Mr D Bucke (FDL).
3. About 40 0-group sole were caught off the Suffolk coast and brought back alive for laboratory tagging tests.

John D Riley
1 November 1978

SEEN IN DRAFT: A Pearson

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION

Basic List
J D Riley
S Flatman
T Hulme
C Garrod
M L White
R B Cross