

1985 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT : MV CAM SEARCHER

STAFF:

J H Nichols
S P Milligan

DURATION: 1400h 20 November
1630h 23 November

LOCALITY: West Central North Sea

AIMS:

1. To do a herring larvae survey of approximately 40 stations in the vicinity of the two 'Argos' satellite tracked buoys released on CIROLANA cruise 8/85.
2. To locate and service the southernmost buoy or to remove it if deemed necessary.

NARRATIVE:

Sailing from Grimsby was delayed until 1600h 20 November because of bad weather. On arrival at the first plankton sampling station (latitude 53°45'N; longitude 00°50'E) conditions were still unsuitable for working and the vessel hove to until 1630h on the following day. Thereafter a total of 22 sampling stations (fig 1) was completed in the vicinity of recent positions of the southernmost buoy, before course was set for Bridlington Bay at 1000h 23 November. After a short search using the vessels rescue boat the 'Argos' buoy was located in the surf off Hornsea. The buoy was retrieved using the services of a beach angler and the local coastguard. MV CAM SEARCHER docked in Grimsby at 1630h 23 November.

The skipper, mate and crew of the vessel are to be commended for the efficient and enthusiastic way in which they approached our work. This spirit of cooperation was also noteworthy amongst the shore staff in particular the operations managers and engineering superintendent.

RESULTS

1. The most recent 'Argos' buoy positions (0700h 20 November, 0600h 21 November) showed that the southerly buoy was moving rapidly westwards (figure 1). The grid of sampling stations was planned to cover this recent movement and its progress over the previous ten days since its rapid movement to the south-east. The northerly buoy had also moved south-easterly and then westwards during the same period, but time and weather did not permit any plankton sampling in this area.

Herring larvae greater than 15mm total length were found in more than half the stations sampled. Large larvae, greater than 20mm, were numerous at the southern and western edge of the grid in the vicinity of the most recent buoy positions. A patch of slightly smaller larvae was found at the north eastern corner in the vicinity of the buoy position on 19 November.

2. The northernmost 'Argos' buoy minus its drogue was recovered in working order from the beach at Hornsea whilst the southernmost buoy was not located. This buoy eventually washed ashore, also minus its drogue, at Skegness on 25 November and was recovered in working order.

J H Nichols

INITIALLED: D J G

DISTRIBUTION: Basic list +
Staff on cruise
Cam Shipping Ltd, Grimsby

