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

1974 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CIROLANA: CRUISE 8B

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

STAFF

- C T Macer
- P D Wallace
- A M Watson
- J Dann
- P M Hudson
- Miss W A Porter

DURATION

Left Plymouth 2100 h 23 October

Arrived Grimsby 1730 h 31 October

All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY

Western English Channel

AIMS

1. Acoustic survey of pelagic fish using the KH Humber gear and the Simrad echo-integrator.
2. Trace identification by means of midwater trawling.

NARRATIVE

The acoustic survey commenced off Start Point at 0100 h 24 October and continued without interruption until the completion of the main grid west of Wolf Rock at 2245 h 27 October. The ship then returned to an area off Lizard Point where some of the highest acoustic levels had been recorded, but work was prevented by gale force NW winds, and shelter was sought off Falmouth at 0130 h 28 October. After an unsuccessful attempt at feathering for mackerel, an inshore acoustic survey was started at 0930 h but this was curtailed when it became necessary to make immediate repairs to a leaking shaft gland. The ship again made for Falmouth, where repairs were effected whilst at anchor between 1130 h and 1800 h, the vessel remaining here until 0700 h 29 October due to continuing NW gales.

With a slight moderation in the weather, CIROLANA left the anchorage and made for the Eddystone area, where echo levels had also been comparatively high. However, the ship diverted to investigate a group of 12 Russian trawlers and a mother ship, located about 25 miles ESE of Lizard Point. Although none

of these trawlers were fishing, echo trace was present and this was identified with the Engel trawl (2 tows) as being a mixture of anchovy and mackerel, though catches were extremely small.

Further acoustic work between the Eddystone and Start Point was completed at 2330 h and the ship then steamed to a position south of the Indefatigable Bank to pick up a buoy laid by IOS (Taunton) near a gas production platform. This was reached at 0830 h 31 October and the buoy was recovered by 0930 h, when CIROLANA steamed for Grimsby.

RESULTS

1. An acoustic grid from Start Point to the Wolf Rock and extending to mid-Channel was successfully completed. Echo abundance was in general rather low; it was highest in two main areas - off Lizard Point and between the Eddystone and Start Point. Nearly all of this trace was within the 12 mile limit.
2. Trawling was severely curtailed by bad weather and lack of time; it was limited to the two hauls mentioned above.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Very little was seen of the large fleet of mainly Russian trawlers (reported to number 120) which was in evidence immediately prior to the start of cruise 8B. The few ships which were seen were mostly steaming to the west and it was concluded that the fleet had moved on. At the end of the survey, however, some of the ships seemed to be returning to the area.
2. The new method of attaching the headline transducer, namely in a sleeve of netting, worked well.

C T Macer
19 November 1974

SEEN IN DRAFT: JEMB
WJS

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List
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