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

1981 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CIROLANA : CRUISE 10

STAFF:

S J Lockwood
B C Bedford
T W Boon
W A Dawson
G J Howlett
D R Eaton
P A Large
E Barnwell (Ireland)

DURATION:

4th November-16 December

LOCALITY:

Northern North Sea, West of Scotland, West of Ireland, Celtic Sea,
Western English Channel.

AIMS:

To carry out a fishing survey for Mackerel, Scad and Pilchard.

NARRATIVE:

Due to strong adverse winds CIROLANA was prevented from leaving Royal Dock until the morning tide of 24 November when she sailed for Shetland. With the exception of 27 November when conditions moderated sufficiently to enable a new trawl warp to be stretched and laid under tension, no work was possible prior to 30 November. Fishing began NW of Rona on 30 November and continued, 1 December off St Kilda, and Stanton Banks during the morning of 2 December. Very few mackerel were found. In the afternoon of 2 December CIROLANA joined the British freezer fleet fishing NW of Tory Island, where skippers reported good catches - provided they hit a shoal. CIROLANA made a catch of 108 baskets medium-large mackerel in the area and then continued Southwards fishing off the West coast of Ireland 3 and 4 December. In this area scad were more abundant than mackerel. Fishing in the Celtic Sea began near Great Sole Bank on 5 December and continued near Melville, Jones and Nympe Banks 6-7 December. Mackerel were not abundant in these areas and those caught were mostly very small, less than 30 cm. Small fish also dominated the mackerel catches off Cornwall 8-12 December. Scad were the most abundant species in catches between Eddystone and Start Point, 11 December. During the evening 10 December, Dr Lockwood left CIROLANA off Falmouth by agents launch to attend a MAFF-Industry consultation meeting in London. He rejoined the ship off Falmouth 2330 h 11 December. During his absence Mr Bedford surveyed the area between the Eddystone, Start Point and Hurd Deep. Due to gale-storm force SE winds CIROLANA sought shelter in St Ives Bay during the morning 13 December but was forced to leave and steam to Falmouth Bay as the wind veered to the W - NW during the afternoon. Continuing strong winds and poor forecasts meant that there was little chance of further useful work so CIROLANA left Falmouth Bay 1400 h 14 December and arrived Grimsby 0800 h 16 December.

RESULTS:

1. Mature mackerel were found off the NW coast of Ireland where British, Dutch and West German freezers were fishing. While mackerel were widely

distributed around the Lizard peninsula the vast majority (70-90%) were immature (less than 30 cm). The best catch of 0-group mackerel (10 baskets) was made off SW Ireland. Elsewhere they did not appear to be as abundant as they were in December 1979 when the last 0-group mackerel trip was made.

2. A last minute cruise aim to fish the 1600 Engel trawl with an 80 mm mesh cod end was not undertaken due to the bad weather at the end of the cruise. The cod end will be taken to Aberdeen for use on G A REAY 1/82.

3. Otoliths and measurements were collected, by areas, for all species in which the Laboratory has an assessment interest (Table 1).

4. Two samples of 150 fish were frozen for parasite tag studies by Dr K MacKenzie, Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen. One from NW Ireland and another from off Cornwall.

5. Assorted small fish were collected for the Fishery Officers fish identification courses.

6. Approximately 100 kgs of small gadoids were frozen for FCG.

7. Marginal fin muscles from several species of flat fish were preserved in formalin, and the early stages of an EM preparation of the dorsal fin of Cyclopterus lumpus was completed as part of Dr Greer Walker's latest studies.

Seen in Draft: T H F
W J S
S J Lockwood
22 December 1981

INITIALLED: D J G

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +

S J Lockwood
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OTOLITHS COLLECTED CIROLANA 10/81

	ICES DIVISION VIa	WEST IRELAND	CELTIC SEA	SOUTH WEST ICES DIVISIONS VII e and f
Mackerel	230	-	171	320
Pilchard	-	-	-	142
Scad	13	112	112	246
Haddock	49	-	-	21
Blue whiting	57	63	71	43
Saith	23	-	-	-
Cod	9	-	1	-
Whiting	-	-	-	97
Bass	-	-	-	2
Measurements only				
Hake	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lemon Soles	-	✓	✓	✓
Angler/Monk fish	-	✓	✓	✓
Megrims	-	✓	✓	✓

