

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

1986 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CIROLANA: CRUISE 10

(PROVISIONAL: not to be cited without prior reference to the author)

STAFF:

B W Jones
B C Bedford
T K Stokes
S Flatman
C N Humphreys
W A Dawson
J M Teasdel
S Millward
R Bray (Brit Mus, Nat Hist)
J Pereiro (Observer, Spain)

DURATION:

1-22 December 1986

LOCALITY:

Celtic Sea, English Channel

AIMS:

1. To carry out a groundfish trawl survey of the Celtic Sea and the Bay of Biscay.
2. To sample juvenile fish.
3. To sample pelagic fish shoals.

NARRATIVE:

CIROLANA sailed from Lowestoft at 2100 h on 1 December and made a good passage to the western English Channel. Fishing commenced on the morning of 3 December. The last fishing station was completed at 1600 h on 20 December and the ship made a good passage back to Lowestoft where she docked at 0015 h 22 December.

Throughout the whole working period the cruise was characterised by persistent strong winds and high swells. About six working days were lost due to bad weather. During the remainder of the time 35 fishing stations were completed, the majority in difficult working conditions and it is to the credit of the Fishing Skipper and the deck crew that so much work was achieved. As a result of the reduced cruise duration and the severe weather the part of the survey south of 49°N was not completed. No fishing was carried out in the French or Spanish EEZ's. The attached chart indicates the positions of fishing stations which were worked.

RESULTS:

Aims 1 & 2. A total of 34 stations was worked using a Portuguese High Headline trawl fitted with rubber bobbins, a bunt tickler and a cod-end liner. Polyvalent doors were used. At each station the catch of each species was weighed and all fish, or if appropriate a sample, were measured. Otoliths were taken as required. The resultant data were input into computer database using the Groundfish Survey Database programs and preliminary data summations and analyses were made. No problems were experienced with the software.

Catches were generally small and very few mackerel (66 fish) were taken in the trawl. Total cruise catches for the dominant species were as follows:-

Horse mackerel	1747 kg
Blue whiting	477
Poor cod	457
Spurdog	400
Hake	207
Whiting	172
Saithe	117
Megrim	113
Cod	111

Aim 3. No shoals of pelagic fish were observed until the very end of the working part of the cruise when a mackerel shoal was located off Start Point. A small sample of fish was obtained by fishing with handlines.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Spiral valves from selected elasmobranchs were collected and preserved for Dr Rachel Smith (National Museum of Wales).
2. Four bass were frozen and returned to the laboratory - Dr Pawson.
3. Selected fish specimens were preserved for use in fish identification courses - S Warnes.
4. Small fish and shellfish for use in laboratory feeding experiments were preserved frozen - Dr Bromley.
5. Reference blood samples from the less common fish species were collected - R Turner.
6. Two ripe hake ovaries were preserved for fecundity studies - S Warnes.
7. One ripe anglerfish ovary was preserved for fecundity studies - J Horwood.
8. Mackerel gonads were preserved for histological study - Dr Greer-Walker.
9. Whiting were examined for Clavella parasites for Jon Partington (University College of Swansea) but none was found - R Houghton.
10. Dr Bray examined a range of fish species for parasites and in particular for helminth parasites of whiting and mackerel. Material was preserved for further study.

GEAR DAMAGE

There was no damage or loss of trawling gear during the cruise.

B W Jones
8 January 1987

SEEN IN DRAFT:

W May (SFM)
M J Willcock (Master)

INITIALLED:

D J G

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +
B W Jones
B C Bedford
T K Stokes
S Flatman
C N Humphreys
W A Dawson
J M Teasdel
S Millward
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CIROLANA 10/86 STATION CHART

SHOWING :

STATION NUMBER

COASTLINE

