

dk

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

1982 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CLIONE : CRUISE 10

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

STAFF:

F R Harden Jones
P R Witthames
R J Turner
Lynn Emerson
I Stewart (NERC)
C Anderson (Student)

DURATION:

Left Lowestoft 0825 h 22 July
Arrived Lowestoft 1828 h 28 July
All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCATION:

Rising Ground, North Sea

AIMS:

To study, jointly with RV CORELLA, the diurnal movements and behaviour of plaice on a summer feeding ground.

NARRATIVE:

RV CLIONE left Lowestoft at 0825 h on 22 July and steamed to the Rising Ground. Both vessels started work the same evening. Although the weather was unseasonal - grey skies with a rare sight of the sun, northerly breezes and a persistent swell - work continued without interruption and was completed by 0845 h on 28 July. RV CLIONE returned to Lowestoft and tid up at 1828 h on 28 July.

RESULTS:

A series of hauls with a Granton trawl was completed along a north east-south west line to the south of Botney Cut, the central position being 53° 45.0'N, 03° 00.0'E. Sixteen hauls were made to give duplicate cover of eight 2 h slots over the 24 h period. From these hauls the gut contents of over 1600 plaice were examined. Empty stomachs were most frequent at night (thus confirming the results obtained on CLIONE 7/81) and small ophiuroids were the commonest food item in the guts.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

1. Mr Witthames and Ms Emerson made a collection of plaice blood and muscle tissue for physiological and histological studies.
2. Successful trials were made with the CTD package to which an echo sounder transducer had been attached to facilitate measurements of temperature and salinity close to the bottom.
3. Studies were made of the variability of the Decca navigator system (Mark 21, Frisian Chain 9B) at night.

F R Harden Jones
4 August 1982

SEEN IN DRAFT:

G R O
R G

INITIALLED:

D J G

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +

F R Harden Jones
P R Witthames
R J Turner
Lynn Emerson
I Stewart (NERC)
C Anderson (Student)
Dr Arnold
* Dr Greer Walker
Dr Bannister
Mr Scholes