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 ticd 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.

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