

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

1973 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CLIONE: CRUISE 11

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

STAFF

M J Holden  
B C Bedford  
T Watson  
B Knights  
P B More (North Shields)

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1450 h, 25 July

Arrived Lowestoft 1515 h, 7 August

All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY

Northern North Sea

AIMS

1. To tag cod in the northern North Sea as part of the ICES North Sea Roundfish Working Group investigations on cod sub-populations.
2. To inject with tetracycline and to tag other species for age validation studies.

NARRATIVE

The ship started fishing on the east side of Turbot Bank, in the approximate position 57°20'N 00°06'E, on 28 July. Very few cod were caught and considerable gear damage was sustained so an overnight steam was made to the Fair Isle-Sunburgh Head area from where good commercial catches of cod had been landed. This fishery had ceased by our arrival and catches of cod were light. Despite further gear damage, which was to some extent minimised by adding bunt bobbins and working out the best tow in the area (which was based on tows supplied by the Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen) the remainder of the cruise was spent in this area, except for two hauls on Papa Bank on 31 July. Catch-rates of cod were improved by starting night fishing on 1 August. Only one third of the cod caught were suitable for tagging. Fishing stopped at 0420 h, 5 August and the steam home commenced. It was planned to carry out the standard ICES bottom temperature and salinity observations en route but the flexible drive on the hydrographic davit had sheared so this aim had to be abandoned.

RESULTS

1. 610 cod were tagged with flag tags.
2. 850 spurdogs were tagged; 458 of these were injected with tetracycline at a dose rate of 25 mg/kg of body weight, 196 at a dose rate of 12.5 mg/kg and 196 were treated as controls (not injected).

3. Heads, gonads and otoliths of 29 dabs were collected for Mr Htun Han and 22 whole dabs deep frozen.
4. 50 kg of large gadoids were collected for fish food.
5. 11 live plaice were brought back for the sector scanner programme (Dr Greer-Walker).

M J Holden  
22 August 1973

SEEN IN DRAFT: Capt M Sutcliffe

AHB

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List  
M J Holden  
B C Bedford  
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B Knights  
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