

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

1979 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CLIONE: CRUISE 12

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

STAFF: PART A:

C T Macer	W L Huggins) 29-30 November
C G Brown	B C Mumford	
M W Easey	B Robinson	

DURATION:

Left Lowestoft 1600 h, 29 November

Arrived Lowestoft 1630 h, 12 December

All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY:

North Sea

AIMS:

1. To collect material for investigation of feeding, maturity and fecundity in whiting and other gadoids.
2. Acoustic survey of sprat off NE coast of England.
3. To return live plaice, soles and lumpsuckers to the laboratory (Mr Scholes)
4. To return deep-frozen gadoids for fish food (Dr Lincoln)
5. To return deep-frozen specimens for the fish identification course (Mr Blacker).

NARRATIVE:

CLIONE proceeded to Corton Roads where she anchored. The towed body transducer was rigged and lowered, and after weighing anchor the ship proceeded to nearby deeper water where, after a 3-hour transducer soaking period, transducer trials and ship's noise measurement at varying speeds were made. These were completed at 0300 h, 30 November and the 3 RSG 2 staff were disembarked by tender at 0700 h.

Trawling commenced at 1030 h the same day off Kessingland and continued into the Thames area on 1 December. The next day was spent dodging and fishing was resumed at Smith's Knoll on 3 December. The trawl survey continued in a northerly direction working offshore grounds in the UK sector as far north as The Cut (latitude 56°14') with a few short interruptions due to weather. Samples were collected from English and Scottish inshore areas on 7 and 8 December, when the trawl survey was completed.

The acoustic survey commenced off the Farnes Islands at 1400 h, 9 December and this was completed at the Inner Silver Pit at 0730 h, 12 December, when the ship steamed for Lowestoft.

RESULTS:

1. A total of 28 trawl hauls was made. Stratified sampling of cod, haddock and whiting was done on each haul, covering length, sex, maturity and stomach contents. Most of the mature fish were at an early or intermediate stage of maturation (stage 2 or 3) and the ovaries were not suitable for fecundity estimation. Otoliths of all three species were collected from roundfish sampling areas 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.
2. The rig adopted for the towed transducer worked well, though some minor improvements could be made. The heaviest traces recorded by the equipment (Simrad echo-integrator plus MS44 paper record) occurred inshore between North Shields and Sunderland, where a fleet of UK vessels was operating. There was also a fleet of foreign vessels outside 12 miles in this area.
3. About 10 soles and 25 plaice were returned. No lumpsuckers were caught.
4. Ten boxes of small gadoids were frozen for fish food.
5. Various species were frozen for the identification course, though the herring/sprat and small flatfish mixtures requested were not abundant.
6. Samples of sprat (Dr Johnson) and a small sample of herring (Mr Wood) were frozen.

STAFF: PART B

G C Baxter

J Read

DURATION:

Left Lowestoft 1535 h, 13 December

Arrived Lowestoft 0825 h, 17 December

LOCALITY:

Western Central and Southern North Sea

AIM:

To service the current meter rigs on the JONSIS and South Falls stations.

NARRATIVE:

After sailing had been delayed for 12 hours because there was insufficient water in the harbour to allow her to leave her berth, CLIONE arrived at the JONSIS 1 current meter station at 0700 h, 14 December. The weather, which had deteriorated during the passage, now developed into a N.W. storm; the sea conditions resulting from this and subsequent gales effectively stopping any work on the rig for the next 3 days. During this time weather reports indicated that weather conditions on the other two current meter stations were as bad or worse than that at JONSIS 1, and so CLIONE remained dodging near to the current meter rig.

By the afternoon of 16 December the wind had dropped, and it appeared possible that work might start. However, the heavy swell once again prevented the buoy being lifted, and by 1700 h the wind had risen to 30 knots, and yet another gale warning was received. With no prospect of sea conditions in either the Flamborough

or Thames areas being suitable for working current meter rigs in the next daylight period, CLIONE left for Lowestoft, docking there at 0825 h, 17 December.

RESULTS:

No work was possible on this cruise, due to the continuous and exceptionally bad weather conditions.

C T Macer

G C Baxter

31 December 1979

SEEN IN DRAFT: RAT
GFL

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +

C T Macer
C G Brown
M W Easey
W L Huggins
B C Mumford
B Robinson
G C Baxter
J Read