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

1986 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT : RV CLIONE; CRUISE 12B

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

STAFF:

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DURATION:

Left Barry 0820h 22 October  
Arrived Lowestoft 0536h 30 October  
(All times are Greenwich Mean Time)

LOCATION:

Eastern Irish Sea

AIMS:

1. To service seven current meter stations (moorings M, P, Q, R, S, V, Y).
2. To recover the Near Bed Velocity Recorder plus guard toroids.
3. To anchor for one tidal cycle in the vicinity of the NBVR launch site, to make DRCM measurements and take Nansen-cast water samples for particle-size analysis hourly over a tidal cycle.
4. To work CTD sections between the Isle of Man and the Scottish/English/Welsh coasts.
5. To collect surface and bottom water samples for Caesium analysis at ten stations in the Eastern Irish Sea.
6. To release sea bed drifters at two stations near the Isle of Wight.

NARRATIVE

RV CLIONE sailed from Barry into a strong westerly wind. As the wind strengthened from the north west the vessel sought a sheltered anchorage off Tenby at 1635h. It was 1930h the following day before the wind had moderated sufficiently for further progress to be made. The following day (24 October) the wind had increased to gale force again but this time from the south so that RV CLIONE was able to make good progress in relative comfort and dropped anchor in Ramsey Bay at 1550h. The vessel remained at this anchorage sheltering from storm force westerly winds until 1150h on 25 October when a shift of the wind to the northwest made a move to Laxey Bay desirable. Whilst steaming south still in the shelter of the Isle of Man gusts of greater than 95 knots were recorded (off the scale of the anemometer). RV CLIONE stayed at anchor in Laxey bay from 1310h on 25 October until 0625h the following morning when the vessel weighed anchor and set course for the Near Bed Velocity Recorder station.

Recovery of the NBVR began at 0930h and the instrument and the three guard buoys were safely on board by 1105h. The first current meter station (p) was recovered and relayed without incident by 1301h. On arrival at the second current meter station (Q) the surface buoy was found to be missing although the pellet line was clearly visible. The grapnel was prepared and the first tow successfully caught the ground wire and all instruments were recovered by 1427h. New wires were rigged

for the replacement and the station was relaid by 1512h. As there was no sign of the forecast southerly gale it was decided to service station M to the north of the Isle of Man next and then return for stations R and S. Station M was completed by 1804h and the vessel proceeded to station R via station M where a surface caesium sample was collected. By the time RV CLIONE reached station R the wind had freshened considerably. A recovery approach was made but the operation was abandoned before the buoy was hooked on. As there was no prospect of workable weather conditions in the foreseeable future RV CLIONE set course for Lowestoft via the remaining current meter stations to check on their condition and collect surface caesium samples. Buoys S and V were on position but buoy Y could not be found. Unfortunately nothing could be done in the prevailing conditions and the vessel continued her slow progress southwards against the southerly gale and rounded Lands End at 1630h on 28 October. Sea bed drifters were released near the Isle of Wight and the vessel docked at Lowestoft at 0536h on 30 October.

## RESULTS

1. Three of the seven current meter stations (M, P and Q) were serviced; of the remaining 4 moorings, 3 were in position but the 4th was not sighted.
2. The Near Bed Velocity Recorder and guard buoys were recovered.
3. No anchor stations were attempted.
4. No CTD stations were attempted.
5. All 10 surface water samples for caesium analysis were collected. No attempt was made to collect bottom samples.
6. Sea bed drifters were released near the Isle of Wight.

J A Durance  
(Scientist in Charge)  
30 October 1986

SEEN IN DRAFT    J R F    Master  
                  P M       Fishing Skipper

INITIALLED    R R D       H W H

DISTRIBUTION  
Basic list+  
Staff on cruise

