

Provisional: Not to be quoted without reference to the writer

R. V. CLIONE

Report for Cruise 13/1968

Part A

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|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Staff: C. T. Macer | Duration: 29 November - |
| P. Winslade | 5 December |
| A. M. Watson | All Times are B.S.T. |

Aims

1. To collect live sand eels for experimental work in the laboratory.
2. To investigate winter availability of sand eels.
3. To collect samples of sand from the sand eel grounds.
4. To collect live plankton for the University of East Anglia.

Narrative

CLIONE sailed from Lowestoft at 1825 hours 29 November and proceeded overnight to the Swarte Bank. The next day six hauls were made with the Granton trawl but these yielded only a single sand eel, the catches being composed chiefly of sprat (1 basket/hour) with some admixture of young herring.

After sand samples had been taken, the ship made an overnight passage to the Southernmost Rough where, on 1 December, six hauls were made with the Granton trawl. No sand eels were caught despite their presence in the stomachs of cod, the predominant species being small haddock (3 baskets/hour). Further sand samples were taken.

An overnight move was then made to the Outer Well Bank and five hauls were made on 2 December with the Granton trawl, with and without a tickler chain; a haul was also made in the Outer Silver Pit. Again no sand eels were caught, despite their presence in the stomachs of cod, gurnard and dab. Catches in the shallow water consisted mainly of whiting ($\frac{1}{2}$ basket/hour) but 15 baskets/hour of small haddock were caught in the Pit.

On 3 December, the ship returned to the Southernmost Rough where three hauls were made with the sand eel trawl. Up to twenty baskets of small haddock, with some cod, plaice and lemon sole were caught but still no sand eels (except in stomachs of other fish). Ten grab hauls were also made but no sand eels were taken.

A move to the Haddock Bank on 4 December produced better results. Five hauls with the sand eel trawl produced about 100 sand eels (95% A. marinus) and after sand samples and plankton samples had been taken, the ship steamed for Lowestoft where she berthed at 0930 hours, 5 December.

/Results

Results

1. About 50 A. marinus and one A. lanceolatus were brought back in apparently good condition.
2. Trawl catches of sand eels in winter are obviously very poor, although one large catch was made on a previous (1962) cruise.
3. Samples of sand were taken from the Swarte Bank, Southernmost Rough, Outer Well Bank and Haddock Bank. These will be analysed to see which grade of sand is preferred by sand eels.
4. Twelve Hensen net hauls were made near the Haddock Bank and live plankton returned to the laboratory.

(C. T. Macer)
4.12.68.

Seen in draft: A. B. E. E. (Master)
A. H. B. (Fishing Skipper)

Initialled: A. J. L.

Distribution:

Basic list, plus the following:

Mr. Macer
Mr. Winslade
Mr. Watson