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

1977 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CLIONE: CRUISE 14

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

STAFF:

F R Harden Jones  
G P Arnold  
S Stevens  
Brenda Thompson  
E G Shreeve  
B Riches  
Mr Nichols (Polytechnic Marine Ltd)

DURATION:

Left Lowestoft 1137 h, 14 November

Arrived Lowestoft 0750 h, 23 November

(All times are Greenwich Mean Time)

LOCALITY:

Southern North Sea

AIM:

To continue the studies on the efficiency of the Granton trawl (with door-to-door tickler chain) in cooperation with RV CORELLA using sector scanning sonar and plaice fitted with acoustic transponding tags.

NARRATIVE:

RV CLIONE left Lowestoft at 1137 h, 14 November, in gale force winds and Mr Nichols (Polytechnic Marine Ltd) was able to see the performance of the equipment under the lee of the land before leaving the ship by small boat the same afternoon. RV CLIONE anchored in Yarmouth Roads at 1658 h. The weather moderated on 16 November, and CLIONE left the anchorage at 0759 h and steamed to Den Helder, arriving later that evening. The sonar dome was fitted and the vessel moved to an anchorage in the Marsdiep. The next morning CLIONE sailed at 0659 h to meet RV CORELLA in the working area but while the CLIONE was on passage, CORELLA reported that conditions were too bad for work and CLIONE returned to the Marsdiep to anchor at 1040 h. Thereafter the weather worsened and on 19 November CLIONE was forced to leave the Marsdiep anchorage to shelter in Den Helder Haven, tying up at 2102 h. On 21 November a slight moderation allowed a return to the anchorage at 1153 h, but the sonar dome was removed before leaving the quay. On 22 November forecasts indicated further and more violent storms and it was decided to return to East Anglian waters immediately rather than to have to force a crossing later. CLIONE left the Marsdiep at 1317 h and after a rough and memorable passage reached more sheltered waters in the early hours of the following morning. The weather forecasts indicated that further storms were imminent, and as there was no prospect of any work being done in the next two days the cruise was abandoned and CLIONE returned to port, typing up at 0750 h on 23 November.

RESULTS:

1. No work was done in relation to the aim of the cruise.
2. The long periods of idleness at anchorage allowed the performance of the sector scanner to be carefully checked. With noise down to the acceptable level of 0.2  $\mu$ v, sandwaves in the Marsdiep were detected to ranges of 260 m in horizontal mode and a minehunter's anchor chain at 240 m in vertical mode. On the short range facility (200 m) the display was noise free against an unexceptional bottom of small sandwaves. The instrumentation video (radar) recorder performed without fault.

F R Harden Jones  
Naturalist-in-Charge  
25 November 1977

SEEN IN DRAFT: JF  
GFL

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List

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