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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES & FOOD,
FISHERIES LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND.

1975 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CLIONE: CRUISE 15.

STAFF

- P Warren (NIC)
- Dr E Edwards
- S Lovewell
- P More (Grimsby Office)
- P Roberts (student)
- J Read
- B Braithwaite

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DURATION

Left Lowestoft 0930 h 20 October Arrived Lowestoft 0930 h 6 November

LOCALITY

NE Coast : Farn Deepes

AIMS

1. To survey Nephrops distribution & abundance in the fishery off the Northumberland coast.
2. Tag & release 1000 Nephrops.
3. Diurnal series of hauls at spring & neap tides.
4. Extend present information on Nephrops predation by demersal fish.
5. Collect samples of 10 fish species for chemistry section, Burnham (Dr Portmann).
6. Extend knowledge of sediment properties, south of River Tyne.
7. Sample Pandalid shrimps in cod-end cover.
8. Obtain light values at the seabed.
9. Service hydrographic data buoys along N E coast

NARRATIVE

Scientific staff travelled from Burnham & Grimsby to join the ship on 19 October in readiness for departure the following morning. RV CLIONE sailed on schedule 0930h 20 October & reached the Farn Deepes area for dawn the next day. Setting up new trawl, bridles & spreaders absorbed most of 21 October, but the gear was working well before predicted gale force winds arrived, late on 22 October. Work was again interrupted during 23 October & the ship dodged overnight before continuing the Nephrops survey & docking at North Shields, 1300h 24 October. Replacement bridles were ordered & RSG staff (Read & Braithwaite) were aboard when the ship sailed at 1430 h to service the Tyne data buoy before dark.

CLIONE steamed overnight to service JONSIS I & II at Flamborough & returned overnight for hydrographic station & seabed drifter release at the Tyne, then continued trawling until docking at N Shields again at 1800h 26 October. RSG staff went ashore, fish samples were despatched to Burnham, new bridles were delivered, and ship's stores taken. Dr Edwards was on board to sail at 1500h 27 October.

In continued good weather, the major aims of the cruise were substantially completed by 4 November & there was time in hand to extend the Nephrops survey northwards past Amble. The second diurnal series of trawl hauls was abandoned after 12 hours on 5 November, when an unmarked wreck caused extensive gear damage. Having advised Lowestoft, the cruise was terminated on 5 November in order that Dr Edwards could be put ashore at Whitby & the ship could follow up a reported sighting of a MAFF buoy & check the location of JONSIS I & II. The ship docked at Lowestoft at 0930h on 6 November.

RESULTS

- Aim 1: Completed as planned. 33 trawl stations were completed without incident in order to survey the distribution & abundance of the Nephrops population. 8830 individuals were measured & sexed; total count for the survey was 23450 Nephrops.
2. Completed as planned. 989 Nephrops were measured, sexed & claw tagged, then released outside the area of maximum fishing effort.
 3. One diurnal series was completed; the second was terminated at 12 hours. Results will be examined at Burnham.
 4. Cod were not abundant, but all those taken were examined for stomach contents & Nephrops prey were measured & sexed.
 5. Samples of cod, haddock, whiting, plaice, lemon soles, rays, spurdogs, herrings, sprats, witches, horse mackerel, gurnards & Norway pout were frozen for Dr Portmann, Burnham.
 6. 31 sediment stations were worked & replicate samples frozen for organics & grain size analysis at Burnham.
 7. 16 x 4lb samples of Pandalid shrimp were preserved for subsequent measuring & sexing.
 8. Light values at the seabed could not be obtained because the measuring instrument would not reach & hold bottom in deep water at spring tides.
 9. The hydrographic data buoys were serviced as planned.

Peter Warren
Naturalist in charge
20 November 1975

INITIALLED: AJL

Seen in Draft: JRF
GFL

DISTRIBUTION

Basic List
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