

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

1982 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: R V CLIONE: CRUISE 15a

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

STAFF: P Scholes
M G Walker
J Ramster
Capt B Kay
J Walesby (Goldsmiths College)
P Witthames

DURATION: Sailed Lowestoft 0730 h 12 November
Docked Lowestoft 0700 h 15 November

LOCALITY: North Sea - Sizewell Bank, Smith's Knoll and Brown Ridges

AIMS:

- 1 To collect live fish for experimental work
- 2 To delineate Pectinaria grounds at Smith's Knoll
- 3 To catch fish in these areas and examine the stomach contents
- 4 To collect samples of fin muscles for histochemical analysis

NARRATIVE:

R V CLIONE sailed at 0730 h 12 November and proceeded to Sizewell Bank to fish for dabs as the weather was too bad for fishing at the Knoll.

Four hauls were made but fishing was very poor and as soon as the weather moderated we proceeded to Smith's Knoll and began fishing on the Pectinaria bed, to the west of the Knoll Bank at 0630 h 13 November. Two hauls were made on the patch and two hauls off for comparison. We then moved to the east of the bank repeating the operation with two hauls on the large Pectinaria patch to the east of the Knoll and two hauls off. Stomach contents of fish were examined from each area and live plaice were collected but since we again caught very few dabs it was decided to move overnight to the Brown Ridges. Two successful hauls containing dabs were made here on the morning of 14 November completing Aim 1 of the cruise.

We then steamed back to the Knoll and completed 3 grab stations on the east side before swell and wind stopped work. The ship docked at 0700 h 15 November

RESULTS:

AIM 1. A total of 88 live fish comprising 42 plaice, 34 dabs and 12 soles were collected.

AIM 2. Only three stations were made on the east side of the bank before the weather stopped work.

AIM 3. Stomach contents of 132 cod, 60 plaice and some sole, lemon sole, and whiting were examined and compared from hauls on or off known Pectinaria beds. The cod stomachs showed no difference between grounds. The plaice stomachs were preserved for detailed examination back at the laboratory.

AIM 4. Samples of fin muscles were collected from sole and flounder.

P Scholes
S I C
9 December 1982

SEEN IN DRAFT: AP

MASTER: J R F

FISNING SKIPPER: R F G

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list

P Scholes
M G Walker
J Ramster
Capt Kay
J Walesby
P Witthames