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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE FISHERIES AND FOOD
FISHERIES LABORATORY LOWESTOFT SUFFOLK ENGLAND

1973 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: R V CLIONE: CRUISE 16

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

STAFF

- F R Harden Jones
- G P Arnold
- P Walker
- S M Stevens
- E G Shreeve
- B F Riches
- R Powell (Marconi Space and Defence Systems; 6/7 Nov only)

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1650 h 6 November
 Arrived Lowestoft 1405 h 19 November
 All times are Greenwich Mean Time

7-19
 working d.

LOCALITY

Southern North Sea

AIMS

To continue the studies on the efficiency of the Granton trawl in co-operation with R V CORELLA using sector scanning sonar and plaice fitted with acoustic transponding tags.

NARRATIVE

CLIONE left Lowestoft at 1650 h GMT on 6 November and steamed to the position of the current meter array XC. Weather conditions were not suitable for sector scanner work and the next morning the ship carried on to enter Ijmuiden at 1455 h. Mr Powell left the ship, and after fitting the sonar dome CLIONE left port at 1930 h to rendezvous with CORELLA. Both ships remained in the working area until 1400 h 11 November. During this period the weather was poor, but it was possible to release and successfully attack 2 plaice under marginal conditions. By the afternoon of 11 November it was clear that no further work would be possible in the immediate future and both ships took shelter in Ijmuiden, CLIONE entering port at 1955 h 11 November when the dome was removed the cover was found to be destroyed. A new cover was fitted. North westerly gales continued but on 16 November the forecasts suggested some improvement and CLIONE left Ijmuiden at 1135 h hoping to rendezvous with CORELLA off Texel the next day. But the conditions unexpectedly worsened and CLIONE was forced to dodge in NW winds Force 9 and 10 for 12 h 16/17 November. Not unexpectedly the new dome cover was destroyed under these conditions and CLIONE returned to Ijmuiden to enter the port at 1300 h on 17 November. The dome was removed and CLIONE left Ijmuiden at 1550 h the same day and steamed towards Southwold, stopping en route in attempt to locate the current meter rig WC. CLIONE anchored off Corton at 1048 h on 18 November and arrangements were made for a second attempt to locate and raise the current meter rig XC the following day should conditions prove suitable.

3d

6d

Unfortunately NW gales returned to the area and as it was no longer possible to carry out any further work, CLIONE returned to Lowestoft entering port at 1405 h on 19 November.

RESULTS

1. Efficiency of the Granton trawl

Two plaice were released; the first fish was caught in one attack. Four attacks were made on the second fish, and 3 of these were valid. This fish left the bottom after the fourth attack and was not caught.

2. Location and recovery of current meter rigs

It was not possible to use the sector scanner to locate rig XC and rig WC was not located with the pinger.

3. Noise measurements

A series of noise measurements was made using the sector scanner without a sonar dome at various speeds.

4. Reliability of equipment

- a. There were no faults in the sector scanner and ancilliary equipment.
- b. The sonar dome cover found to be destroyed on 11 November had lasted for 2308 n miles. The second cover, battered by gale on 16/17 November, lasted 66 n miles.

F R Harden Jones
21 November 1973

INITIALLED A J L

DISTRIBUTION

Basic List

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G P Arnold
P Walker
S M Stevens
E G Shreeve
B F Riches
R Powell