

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

1976 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CLIONE: CRUISE 17

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

STAFF

R G Houghton (NIC)
T Williams
A Watson
S Flatman
R Goulder (Lowestoft)

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 0740 h 3 December
Arrived Lowestoft 0500 h 17 December
All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY

English Channel

AIMS

1. To carry out a groundfish survey of the eastern English Channel.
2. To tag plaice, sole, lemon sole during the survey and also when the survey has been completed.
3. To estimate the mortality rate of rays after being left on deck for 30 minutes after capture.
4. To collect live spurdogs, dabs and soles and deliver them to Lowestoft.

NARRATIVE

The groundfish survey was started at 0900 h 4 December near the Isle of Wight and completed at 1630 h 13 December at the Bullock Bank. A period of poor weather interrupted the survey on 7 and 8 December and CLIONE went into le Havre and took on fresh water during this period. Concentrations of sole were found during the survey on the English coast and the remainder of the cruise was spent tagging in these areas and collecting live fish.

RESULTS

1. 30 valid hauls of 45 minutes duration were made with the 82 ft headline Granton (rigged with a wing tickler, rubber groundropes and a cod-end blinder). Six hauls had to be repeated; one trawl was destroyed. All fish were sorted, counted and weighed and the more important species were measured and otolithed. The weights caught in the 10 hauls in each depth band of various species groups were as follows (kg/7.5 h):

Group	No. of species	(Top species)	kg caught/7.5 h		
			0-20 m	20-40 m	40-60 m
Flatfish	12	(Sole)	157	58	17
Gadoids	5	(Pout whiting/ poor cod)	729	1250	318
Elasmos (ex. rays)	5	(Lesser spotted dogfish)	29	259	96
Gurnards	4	(Red gurnard)	18	170	154
Minor commercials	8	(Bass)	6	64	41
Pelagics	9	(Horse mackerel)	41	36	168
Minor non- commercials	10+	(Dragonet)	46	28	12
Cephalopods	3	(Squid sp.)	16	57	55
TOTAL (except rays)	56+		1041	1922	859

Pout whiting and poor cod comprised about one-quarter and one-fifth of the total weight caught respectively. Soles were unusually abundant in the shallow water close to the English coast.

2. 225 soles, 115 plaice and 37 lemon soles were tagged, mainly in Poole Bay.
3. 94 rays of various species were held in the deck tanks for three days. After this time 17 fish were dead. The surviving fish were released.
4. Approximately 15 spurdogs, 80 dabs and 5 soles were returned alive to the laboratory.

R G Houghton
22 December 1976

SEEN IN DRAFT M Moore
R C Newrick

INITIALLED AJL

DISTRIBUTION

Basic list
R Houghton (4 copies)
T Williams
A Watson
S Flatman
R Goulder