

MR. BARR

dw

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

1973 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CLIONE: CRUISE 18

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

STAFF

- F R Harden Jones
- I L Davies
- P G Griffiths
- P H Holford
- P Walker
- P M Hudson

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1030 h, 11 December

Arrived Lowestoft 0610 h, 20 December

All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY

Southern North Sea

AIMS

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

NARRATIVE

RV CLIONE left Lowestoft at 1030 h, 11 December and steamed to IJmuiden where the sonar dome was fitted. CLIONE left IJmuiden at midnight and arrived in the working area off Texel where the first plaice was released at 0647 h, 12 December. CORELLA made 8 attacks on this fish during the day before work had to be broken off in deteriorating weather conditions. Both ships steamed to IJmuiden to shelter, CLIONE arriving at 2240 h 12 December. The sonar dome was removed. Adverse weather conditions made any further work impossible until 17 December, when there was some signs of improvement. It was hoped to continue work on the main objective of the cruise but this plan was abandoned as NW winds Force 7 persisted throughout the night of 17/18 December. It was decided that the remainder of the time available would be best used if both ships concentrated on their secondary aims and CLIONE therefore left IJmuiden at 0600 h, 18 December to carry out acoustic survey work on sand ridges in the Sandettie-Ruytingen area. This work was completed at 1615 h, 19 December and CLIONE steamed back to Lowestoft. The 19 Petersen tagged plaice not used in the gear efficiency work were released in the Shipwash-Gabbard area on the passage home and CLIONE entered Lowestoft at 0610 h, 20 December.

RESULTS

1. Efficiency of trawl. Only 1 plaice was released and in none of the 8 attacks made on this fish was it positioned between the doors. So no results were obtained to add to those already in hand. The preliminary results

obtained over the period 1971-73 for the efficiency of a small Granton trawl (without door-to-door ticklers), can be summarised as follows:-

Position of fish	Number of valid attacks	n	%
within otter boards (total)	130	55	42
between boards and wings	61	13	21
in path of net	66	41	66

2. Acoustic survey of sand ridges: Two sand ridges, M and S, kept under regular surveillance since December 1970, were relocated. Ridge M appears to have continued its movement to the west and has now travelled about 125 m from its original position. An acoustic bottom marker was successfully dropped on the eastern slope 20 m from the crest. Ridge S is in the same position as that in which it was last located in April 1973 and is much reduced in height.

3. Numerous fish traces were located by day in the bottom third of the water column in the Sandettie-Ruytingen area.

F R Harden Jones
21 December 1973

INITIALLED: AJL

SEEN IN DRAFT: GRF

AHB

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List

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I L Davies
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