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R.V. CLIONE

Report for Cruise 1/1967

Staff:

- P. O. Johnson
- B. R. Carpenter
- T. J. Hulme
- A. M. Watson

Duration:

4-13 January, 1967

The aim of this cruise was to carry out an echo- and fish-counting survey of the Wash area and the north-eastern coastal region between Flamborough Head and Farne Islands to locate sprat shoals.

CLIONE left Lowestoft at 1530 hours on the 4th January, but due to gale force winds and a fault in the Decca Navigator the Wash survey was not able to commence until the 6th January. A good concentration of fish was located towards the southern end of the Inner Silver Pit and a radio-telephone link-call was made to the Grimsby office passing on the position of this patch.

The 7th and 8th were spent surveying the Wash area during which radio contact was made with some of the sprat fishing vessels.

Overnight passage was made to the Tyne area on the 8th-9th when the survey continued to cover the region between the Tyne and Farne Islands. During the afternoon of the 9th a group of about one dozen seiner-type vessels fishing as pair and single boat mid-water trawlers were seen fishing within a short distance of each other in a position 15 miles NE of the Tyne. They were working on a very dense but localised sprat concentration in about 43-47 fathoms of water, the shoals then being at a depth of 35-40 fathoms. A close survey was then made using the Decca track-plotter, circling around and through the fishing fleet to locate the boundaries of the patch. With the onset of darkness the fish rose towards the surface and at one stage fish extended from the surface down to a depth of around 30 fathoms.

A localised survey was carried out around the general area of these fish during the night, but no further patches were located. Contact was again made with these fish early the following day (10th) when the fishing vessels had returned to port. (It was later heard that 700 crans of sprats were landed at North Shields that morning.)

The survey then continued southwards covering the Yorkshire coast region up to 15-20 miles offshore, but very little pelagic trace was encountered here until the Inner Silver Pit was reached on the 11th. A final survey was made in the Wash area on the 11th and 12th and encouraging signs of fish aggregation were noted at the SW'ly end of the Wash between the Roaring Middle and Lynn Deep, and in the southern part of the Inner Silver Pit-Race Bank area, this being the major concentration.

CLIONE returned to Lowestoft on the 13th January docking at 1030 hours.

P. O. Johnson  
17th January 1967

Seen in Draft: TAS

Initialed: HAC

Distribution:

Dr. Cole  
Mr. Lee  
Captain Aldiss  
Dr. Cushing  
Mr. Bolster  
Mr. Burd  
Mr. Cattley  
Mr. Corlett  
Mr. Garrod  
Dr. Harden Jones  
Mr. Iles,  
Dr. Jamieson  
Dr. Purdom  
Mr. Margetts  
Mr. Trout  
Mr. Bridger  
Mr. Mitson  
Mr. Tungate  
Mr. Williams  
Mr. Wood  
Mr. Adams  
Mr. Mills  
Mr. Kay  
Miss Conolly  
General Lab.  
Lab. Registry  
Library (2)  
Mr. Whiting  
N.I.C. Next Cruise  
Mr. Simpson  
Dr. Reynolds  
Chief Inspector  
All District Inspectors  
Fisheries Registry  
Captain Sutton  
CLIONE File (Captain Sutton)  
Mr. Postill  
Skipper Snowling  
Mr. Buchanan Wollaston  
Mr. W. Baird  
Director, Dublin  
Mr. Glover  
Hydrographic Department  
Dr. Lucas  
Director, N.I.O.  
Dr. Peachey  
Mr. Shelbourne  
W.F.A.  
Director, Charlottenlund  
Director, IJmuiden

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Mr. Johnson.  
Mr. Carpenter  
Mr. Hulme  
Mr. Watson