

R. V. CLIONE

Report for Cruise 1/1969

Staff C. E. Purdom  
P. Walker

Duration 1 - 2 January  
14 - 18 January

Aims

To collect:-

- a) Live ripe plaice and flounder for hatchery work.
- b) Sandeels for fish behaviour studies.
- c) Elasmobranch sera for Chester Beatty Institute of Cancer Research.

Narrative

CLIONE sailed at 0940 hours, 1 January, but after engine failure at 1511 hours returned to Lowestoft berthing at 2120 hours, 2 January. After repairs the cruise was resumed on 14 January and the ship sailed at 1805 hours proceeding to Rye Bay.

Five 1-hour trawls were made in Rye Bay but few ripe fish were caught. The presence of numerous spent females and the lack of males suggested that spawning in this area was almost over. The ship therefore sailed for the North Sea at 2145 hours, 15 January. No attempt could be made to fish the Sandettie Bank for sandeels because of the shortage of time and imminent bad weather in this area. Trawling began south of the Brown Ridges at 1025 hours, 16 January, but no useful fish were caught in two 1-hour trawls. The ship proceeded to a position north of the Brown Ridges but three 1-hour trawls again yielded no spawning fish. The ship sailed north at 1800 hours, 16 January, and trawling began on the Rising Ground at 0645 hours, 17 January. Plaice were very scarce and after three unproductive trawls the ship sailed towards Smiths Knoll for a final attempt. Two further trawls south of the Wells Bank again failed to yield useful fish and with deteriorating weather and a forecast of storm 10 imminent, fishing was abandoned at 1620 hours, 17 January, and the ship sailed for Lowestoft, arriving 0940 hours, 18 January.

Results

Approximately twelve fish were obtained from Rye Bay and one ripe female plaice from the Rising Ground. Elasmobranch sera were collected at most stations and a few samples of cod blood from Rye Bay for Dr. Jamieson. No sandeels were landed.

Thirty-two tons of offshore sea water were collected in the forward ballast tanks as an emergency supply for the laboratory following oil pollution on the Lowestoft beaches. Three dozen carboys of offshore water were collected for hatchery use.

C. E. Purdom  
19 January, 1969

Seen in draft: M.R.S.  
A.J.L.

Distribution

Basic list, plus the following:- P. Walker.