

*Library*

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

1976 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: R V CLIONE: CRUISE 1

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

STAFF: R J Wood (2-15 January)

J P Bridger  
M R Vince  
Mrs B M Thompson  
Mrs W A Dawson

DURATION:

Left Lowestoft 1000 h 2 January  
Arrived Lowestoft 1130 h 21 January

All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY: Irish Sea, Eastern English Channel, Southern North Sea.

AIMS:

- 1 To investigate the distribution and abundance of 1 and 2-ring juvenile herring in the Irish Sea.
- 2 To investigate the distribution and abundance of autumn-spawned herring larvae in the Irish Sea.
- 3 To carry out a survey for herring larvae in the eastern English Channel and southern North Sea as part of the ICES programme to obtain estimates of abundance of autumn spawned herring larvae during the 1975/76 season.

NARRATIVE:

R V CLIONE sailed from Lowestoft at 1000 h 2 January for the Irish Sea but by evening was forced to take shelter off Margate while storm-hurricane force winds devastated the eastern counties. When the winds veered the vessel moved to Deal Roads for some hours and a further brief delay was necessary on 4 January when a crew member had to be put ashore via the Plymouth pilot launch. Thereafter the passage was uneventful and having calibrated the flow meters of the 20 in high speed plankton sampler during the afternoon of 5 January a grid of 61 stations was worked covering both the English and Irish coasts of the northern Irish Sea. Only one delay occurred when on the evening of 10 January and the whole of the 11 January the vessel, in company with R V CIROLANA, was forced to seek shelter in Ramsey Bay (IOM). During daylight hours the 800 Engel pelagic trawl was fished on 10 occasions. 3 hauls of 1 hour's duration each were made on the Irish side (Dundalk Bay, Crook Point and Rockabill Lt). A further 7 hauls were made on the English side (2 off St Bee's Head, 2 east of the Isle of Man, 2 off the Great Orme and 1 off Barrow in Furness).

The last plankton haul was made at 0440 h 13 January when course was set for Plymouth. On the morning of 14 January a short echo survey for mackerel was made inshore between Mounts Bay and Plymouth where the vessel docked at 1530 h.

Before sailing from Plymouth a tour of Millbay Docks and the Lockyer Wharf was made in an attempt to find mackerel which were bound for the Hull and Grimsby fish meal factories and which could be internally tagged to test the efficiency of the magnets. Unfortunately all the catch of the purse seiner QUO VADIS was sold to France and the pair trawlers were only discharging pilchards.

On sailing from Plymouth R V CLIONE proceeded to ICES station 65B off Cap de Baufleur arriving at 0250 h 16 January. The grid was then worked without interruption until 1740 h 19 January, 61 stations being successfully carried out. Weather deteriorated steadily throughout the 19 January and having worked ICES station 17 the vessel was forced to seek shelter off Aldeburgh from gale force winds. When on the morning of 21 January neither the present weather nor the forecast, showed signs of moderating, the vessel made for Lowestoft arriving at 1130 h.

#### RESULTS

1 Ten pelagic trawl hauls in the Irish Sea produced only 48 herrings from the Irish coast but some 12 baskets of that species from the English side. Measurements and full biological samples were carried out on all the herring caught.

2 The 61 plankton hauls made in the Irish Sea produced small numbers of herring larvae, mainly in one fairly extensive patch between the Isle of Man and the Cumberland coast. Very few were taken off the Irish coast.

3 The brief echo survey off the Cornish coast revealed extensive mackerel traces to the west of the Lizard in the area where QUO VADIS took 60 tons of mackerel during the previous night and ORSINO had been taking 100 baskets per haul by pelagic trawl. The Falmouth based featherin fleet formed two groups: the first was strung out eastwards from the 3 mile buoy off St Anthony Lt (about 50 vessels); the second group of some 70 vessels lay some 5 miles off-shore south of the Gull Rock. Thereafter echo traces were light until south of Plymouth where very dense traces of the plume type were encountered. These were typical winter pilchard traces and the catches of the pair trawlers confirmed this.

4 The plankton hauls in the eastern English Channel (Bay of the Seine, Cap d'Antifer, Vergoyer, Bassurelle, Bassure de Baas etc) produced no yolk sac larvae and only a very few clupeoid larvae. Those made in the Southern Bight from Cap Gris Nez to off Aldeburgh produced at first inspection no clupeoid larvae at all.

A little fishing activity was seen at night east of Cap de Barfleur and later a large French stern trawler, BOULONAISE, was seen with Süberkrüb doors in her quarter gallows, steaming fast in that direction, but it was not established whether a herring fishery was developing there.

No sign of a herring fishery was seen on any of the other known grounds in the Channel.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

From the Engel trawl catches in the Irish Sea two samples of whiting for Mr Parnell and two samples of herring for Mr Jefferies were deep frozen and brought back to the laboratory.

R J Wood  
J P Bridger  
5 February 1976

SEEN IN DRAFT: JRF (Master)  
WG (Fishing Skipper)  
INITIALLED: A J L

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List

R J Wood

J P Bridger

M R Vince

Mrs B M Thompson

Mrs W A Dawson