

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
FISHERIES LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND
1982 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: IRV CLIONE CRUISE
(Provisional: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

- STAFF:
- M Greer Walker
 - A Urquhart
 - E Potter
 - L Emerson
 - B Riches
 - T Storeton West

DURATION:

Left Lowestoft 1730 h 5 January
 Arrived Lowestoft 0230 h 18 January
 All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY:
 Southern Bight

AIM:
 To track acoustically tagged plaice on their spawning grounds in the Southern Bight using sector scanning sonar.

NARRATIVE:
 CLIONE left Lowestoft at 1730 h 5 January and steamed overnight to a position SW of the Brown Ridge which was identified by CIROLANA as a centre of plaice egg production. Acoustically tagged female plaice were then released and tracked in an area between longitude 3° and 4° E and latitude 51° and 53° N as convenient. There were no substantial interruptions and work was completed at 1200 h 17 January. CLIONE docked at Lowestoft on 18 January at 0230 h.

RESULTS:

Four female plaice were released and tracked the details are as follows:

Plaice 1 This fish (condition factor K 1.26) was released at 1311 h 6 January in a position latitude 52° 27.0'N and longitude 03° 14.4'E. It was tracked for 48 h and moved 25 n miles in a southerly direction. The fish moved into midwater for both the northerly tides at night but remained on the bottom for the duration of the two southerly tides at night but remained on the bottom for both the northerly tides and the single southerly tide occurring during daylight.

Plaice 2 This fish (K 1.18) was released at 1147 h 9 January in a position latitude 52° 09.9'N and longitude 02° 44.4'E. It was tracked for 67 h and used selective tidal transport to move 50 n miles in a northerly direction. It moved into midwater on northerly tides by day and by night remaining on the bottom during all southerly tides.

Plaice 3 This fish (K 1.32) was released at 1615 h 12 January in a position latitude 52° 10.4' and longitude 02° 44.4'E. It was tracked for 42 h and moved 19 n miles in a southerly direction. The manner of movement was similar to Plaice 1, the fish moving into midwater on southerly tides occurring at night.

Plaice 4 This fish was released at 1507 h 14 January in a position latitude 52° 04.9'N and longitude 02° 44.7'E. It was tracked for 65 h was abandoned 16 n miles E of the Galloper and travelled 23 n miles in a SW direction. Similarly to Plaice 1 and 3 this fish only moved into midwater on southerly tides at night.

Plaice 1-3 were caught at Smith's Knoll and translocated to the release area. Plaice 4 was caught by CORELLA on 10 January on the spawning grounds and released in the same area. Plaice 3 used selective tidal transport to move northwards indicating perhaps that it was not yet ready to spawn or would not spawn this year (the condition factor and therefore gonad size of this fish was the lowest). Plaice 1, 2 and 4 used a tidal rhythm not observed during migrations or on the feeding grounds. The fish moved into midwater on southerly tides at night but remained on the bottom during all northerly tides and southerly tides by day.

M Greer Walker
21 January 1982

SEEN IN DRAFT: Master: BAC
Fishing Skipper: GFL

INITIALLED: DJG

DISTRIBUTION:

- Basic List
- M Greer Walker
- A Urquhart
- E Pötter
- Miss L Emerson
- B Riches
- T Storeton West
- G Arnold