

INDEXED *APR*

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

## 1984 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CLIONE: CRUISE 1  
(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

## STAFF

M Greer Walker  
E C E Potter  
B F Riches  
R P Flatt  
Miss L S Emerson  
Mrs J Hunton

## DURATION

12-24 January

## LOCALITY

Southern Bight

## AIM

To track acoustically tagged plaice on their spawning grounds in the Southern Bight.

## NARRATIVE

CLIONE sailed at 1600 h 12 January but on account of bad weather and deteriorating forecasts remained in Corton Roads until 18 January. CLIONE steamed to the tracking area some 30 nautical miles SW of the Brown Ridge on 18 January and the weather had ameliorated sufficiently to begin work at 1715 h that day. Tracking continued as weather allowed until 24 January. CLIONE docked at 1300 h 24 January.

## RESULTS

The first female plaice was released at 1739 h 18 January in a position  $52^{\circ}17.37'N$  and  $02^{\circ}38.71'E$ . This fish was tracked for a period of  $63\frac{1}{2}$  h and the overall movement was 6.7 km and  $323^{\circ}$ . The track covered three diurnal cycles each demonstrating a similar behaviour pattern. Each night the fish spent varying periods in midwater and during the day the fish remained stationary on the bottom. The time spent in midwater decreased progressively over the three cycles.

The second female plaice was caught from G A REAY by midwater trawl on 20 January and transferred to CLIONE. It was released at 1428 h 21 January but contact was lost at 1930 h that evening having spent the period predominantly in midwater.

The third female plaice was released at 1804 h 22 January but contact was lost shortly afterwards at 1815 h.

The fourth female plaice was released at 1859 h 22 January and was tracked for 33 h. After an initial period in midwater during the night of 22/23 January this fish adopted selective tidal stream transport remaining in midwater on

southerly tides by day (1030-1415 h 23 January) and by night (2200-0345 h 24 January) and on the bottom for northerly tides.

M Greer Walker  
2 February 1984

SEEN IN DRAFT: J R French

Initialled: DJG

DISTRIBUTION:

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- Miss L S Emerson
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