

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

1971 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CLIONE: CRUISE 1A

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

STAFF

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DURATION

5-13 January

LOCALITY

Southern Bight, Dowsing, Borkum

AIMS

1. To collect live plaice and other flatfish.
2. To collect live sandeels (Dowsing).
3. To collect and deep-freeze cod pituitaries.
4. To collect and deep-freeze small gadoids.
5. To collect samples of plaice, cod and sandeels for Dr Portman.

NARRATIVE

RV CLIONE left Lowestoft at 1600 hours, 5 January and proceeded to the Borkum area where trawling began at 1000 hours, 6 January. Sufficient plaice were caught after 6 tows and the ship returned to Great Yarmouth, berthing at 0840 hours, 8 January. Live fish were off loaded and the ship sailed for the Brown Ridges grounds at 1005 hours.

The original plan had been to collect running ripe plaice from the Rye Bay grounds but in view of the reports of plaice eggs in the Southern Bight on RV CORELLA's Cruise 14-70, it was decided to fish instead, the area to the west of the Brown Ridges. Trawling began at 1445 hours, 8 January and the minimum plaice requirements were achieved in 6 tows. The ship then returned to Lowestoft, berthing at 0812 hours, 9 January, to off load fish and to disembark that part of the scientific crew not required for the work on the Dowsing Grounds. RV CLIONE sailed at 0910 hours, 9 January for the Dowsing Grounds where trawling began at 1630 hours, 9 January. Fishing continued on 10 January but only small numbers of sandeels (*A. marinus*) were caught in each tow. The catch was improved, however, when a tickler chain was added to the Granton trawl on the evening of 10 January. Trawling continued on 11 January but a force 5 East SE wind began to build up a considerable swell on the edge of the bank and fishing had to be discontinued at 1800 hours. With freshening wind, the ship steamed slowly back to

Lowestoft arriving at 1000 hours 13 January. Contrary to expectations, the tows during the hours of darkness yielded as many sandeels as those carried out in daylight. Catches were always poor, however, with a maximum of 30 adult fish per hour. No ripe or ripening fish were caught.

#### RESULTS

All aims were achieved to minimum requirements at least. Sixty plaice, 18 soles, some turbot and brill and about 100 sandeels were returned alive to Lowestoft although few of the latter were in good condition. Plaice, cod and sandeel samples were deep frozen for Dr Portman, small gadoids were deep frozen for turbot food at the laboratory, and a sample of female cod was preserved for Mr Humphries. Plaice samples from the Borkum Grounds were measured for Mr Bannister and otoliths were taken for an age length key.

C E Purdom

19.1.71

#### SEEN IN DRAFT

MRS

#### INITIALLED

AJL

#### DISTRIBUTION

Basic list

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