

MR. BARRIE

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE FISHERIES AND FOOD
FISHERIES LABORATORY LOWESTOFT SUFFOLK ENGLAND

1974 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: - R V CLIONE: CRUISE 1(b)

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

STAFF

- R C A Bannister
- K M Brander
- M W Easey
- D J Peek
- A M Banks
- A A Fonteles (Brazil)

DURATION

Left Lowestoft at 1000 h GMT 9 January
 Arrived Lowestoft at 1700 h GMT 18 January
 All times are Greenwich Mean Time.

LOCALITY

Southern North Sea

AIMS

1. To tag plaice on the spawning grounds in the German Bight, Southern Bight and Eastern English Channel.
2. To collect blood, tissue, heart, liver and eye, from plaice in these three areas for an investigation of sub-stock typing systems.
3. To collect samples of stomachs of fish predators of plaice egg and larvae in the Southern Bight (D Tunge)
4. To examine turbot trematodes for ripe proglottides and collect trematode eggs (R Leppington Clarke)

NARRATIVE

CLIONE left Lowestoft at 1000 h 9 January and after a good passage in favourable weather began fishing at a position north of the old P3 buoy in the Borkum area. Moderate catches of rather poor quality plaice were taken from this area and tagging continued throughout the day. Thereafter weather conditions were consistently poor as a series of south westerly gales swept through the North Sea giving arise to extremely uncomfortable and persistent swell conditions. However, despite dodging throughout the night of the 10th, all day on the 11th, and for periods on the afternoon and evening of the 12th and the evening of the 13th, a total of 24 hauls had been worked in the Borkum-White Bank area by the evening of 14 January. This resulted in a total of 1624 plaice and 6 turbot tagged and released, and the collection of samples of blood, muscle, hear, liver and eye from 25 plaice.

In view of the time remaining, work in the German Bight was then considered complete and CLIONE set course to steam southwest as fast as conditions would permit. Continuing high winds, and a heavy swell impeded progress

during this passage, adding to the interruptions already experienced, and CLIONE reached the Southern Bight during the night of 15/16 January with time left to work in only one of the two remaining areas. During the morning of 16 January force 11 winds, first SW and then NW, were forecast for the whole of the possible working area and prospects were so poor that on reaching Harwich at 1300 h it was considered prudent to anchor at the Cork to await developments. This proved to be a wise decision. Even at the anchorage winds gusted to 63 knots and offshore and in the Channel several ships found themselves in distress.

Winds eased sufficiently early on 17 January for CLIONE to proceed to carry out an echo survey of prospective trawl tows on the sand ridges of the North Falls area. Three hauls were then made in the afternoon and early evening for blood sampling and tagging. Blood sampling was completed and 60 plaice tagged but catches were so poor that CLIONE steamed north during the night to work near the Gabbard early the following morning. Plaice catches there were again so poor that at 1030 h tagging was abandoned. CLIONE set course for Lowestoft roads, arriving at 1500 h in time to dock at 1700h.

RESULTS

1. A total of 1624 plaice were tagged and released in the German Bight and 71 plaice in the Southern Bight. Half a dozen German Bight turbot were also tagged and released.
2. Samples of blood, heart, liver, eye and flesh were obtained from 25 German Bight and 25 Southern Bight fish as part of a pilot study to identify suitable typing systems for substock investigations.
3. Samples of plaice, codling and whiting were deep frozen for Dr Portmann. from the White Bank and Kentish Knock areas.
4. Stomachs of a few pout and cod from the Southern Bight were examined but they were found not to contain plaice eggs or larvae.
5. Turbot were examined for gravid trematodes, but none of the proglotthides were found to be mature.

SEEN IN DRAFT Capt Sutcliffe
 Skipper A Button

R C A Bannister
29 January 1974

INITIALLED A J L

DISTRIBUTION

Basic List
R C A Bannister
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