

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

*MAFF*

1975 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: R V CLIONE: CRUISE 2

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

STAFF: G T Thacker  
P Scholes  
A P Scott  
L Emerson  
S Stevens

DURATION:

Left Lowestoft 0200 h 21 January  
Arrived Lowestoft 1400 h 3 February

LOCALITY:

North Sea

AIMS:

- 1 Collection of ripe plaice of both sexes for hatchery use
- 2 Collection of live plaice eggs for genetic studies
- 3 Collection of live plaice in the 20-30 cm size range for the Radio-biological Laboratory
- 4 Collection of live plaice eggs outside Southern North Sea
- 5 General collection of pituitaries, pancreas and Hypothalamus tissue.

NARRATIVE:

After a delay of twelve hours due to an abnormally poor tide at Lowestoft the CLIONE sailed on the high water at 0200 h 21 January. The subsequent period until 26 January was spent dodging and sheltering from persistent south to southwesterly gale force winds. On 24 January permission was obtained to extend part A of the cruise until 3 February and part B was cancelled. After a particularly severe gale experienced on 25 January the ship sheltered in Corton Roads at 2300 h. On the morning of 26 January the fishing skipper and one of the two cooks fell sick and both were landed on the trawl jetty at Lowestoft at 0900 h. The ship did not sail again that day. The staff reported aboard for sailing at 0900 h 27 January but catering staff were not available and the ship sailed on the evening tide at 2115 h, anchoring in Corton Roads awaiting weather improvements offshore. At 1530 h 28 January the officers' steward received facial burns in the galley and was landed via the Lowestoft Pilot Cutter. The ship left Corton Roads with a moderating weather forecast at 1130 h 29 January. Trawl hauls were made on three grounds in the Southern North Sea but plaice were scarce and proved to be spent females. Live mid- to late stage plaice eggs were collected 11 mls east of Outer Gabbard lightvessel. Trawl hauls at Smiths Knoll on 31 January proved unproductive. In improving weather the ship continued north to the second spawning ground at West Mud Hole arriving at 1600 h. Early stage live plaice eggs were collected at this location during the evening. Trawling for live plaice commenced at 0630 h 1 February and in fine weather conditions this ground proved to be productive in plaice, dab and cod all in spawning condition. By 1740 h 2 February all aims had been completed and the ship sailed for Lowestoft at 1845 h. The ship docked at MAFF quay at 1400 h 3 February.

RESULTS

- 1 45 live ripe plaice were collected (34 female, 11 male)
- 2 3500 live plaice eggs were collected from Southern North Sea
- 3 34 live plaice 20-30 cm were collected
- 4 7000 live plaice eggs were collected from West Mud Hole
- 5 Pituitaries, pancreas and hypothalamus were collected from:

Approx. 1200 dab, 400 plaice and 50 cod  
20 cod blood samples were also collected

Also: Dawn and dusk codend cover samples were taken for egg predation studies

30 bags of whiting were deep frozen for laboratory fish food

Offshore seawater was collected in carboys for the Radiobiological

Laboratory and the ship's seawater tanks were filled at this location

1 herring sample was also taken from codend cover hauls.

G T Thacker  
11 February 1975

SEEN IN DRAFT: J R F (Master)  
                  W G (Fishing Skipper)

INITIALLED: A J L

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List

Mr Thacker  
Mr Scholes  
Mr Scott  
Mr Emerson  
Mr Stevens  
Dr Purdom