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

1981 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CLIONE: CRUISE 2
(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF

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M W Easey
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D R Eaton

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 0517 h, 31 January
Arrived Lowestoft 1140 h, 9 February
All times are Greenwich Mean Time.

LOCALITY

Southern Bight and eastern Channel

AIMS

1. To carry out a survey for herring larvae in the Southern Bight and eastern Channel as part of an international survey of the abundance and distribution of autumn spawned herring larvae in the North Sea and adjacent waters.
2. To obtain samples of adult herring for age analysis.

NARRATIVE

CLIONE was unable to sail on the PM tide 30 January owing to dense fog. This cleared some hours later and CLIONE finally sailed from Lowestoft at 0517 h 31 January. The high-speed plankton sampler, was calibrated in free flow from 0930-1010 h and the herring larval survey commenced at 1100 h at position 52°35'N 02°50'E. 38 plankton stations were completed before a severe south westerly gale forced CLIONE to dodge from 1900 h 2 February to 1000 h 3 February. After steaming some 25 miles to the next station position the larval survey was resumed at 1230 h. A further 16 stations were completed before CLIONE was again forced to dodge by a heavy swell in the eastern Channel from 2000 h 4 February until 0630 h 5 February. The survey then continued until 2130 h next day, 6 February, when the failure of the main engine lubrication pump necessitated anchoring off Le Havre for 2½ hours. Using a back-up lubrication system, CLIONE was then able to continue the larval survey until the last station (number 91) was completed at 1940 h 7 February, 8 miles south of Beachy Head.

As no herring type echo traces had been located in sufficiently deep water for midwater trawling to be carried out, CLIONE then set course for the Isle of Wight, in order to recover the Nab Tower current meter array. After anchoring off the Isle of Wight 0230 h - 0730 h 8 February, CLIONE proceeded to the Nab Tower station. The surface buoy was found to be in position and the current meter array was recovered intact by 0940 h. Course was then set south eastwards and an additional 2 plankton stations were worked in order to delimit the westerly distribution of herring larvae off

the English coast. These stations were completed by 1300 h and course set for Lowestoft. CLIONE docked at Lowestoft 1140 h 9 February.

RESULTS

- Aim 1. 93 plankton stations were completed with the high-speed sampler covering the complete area of herring larval distribution in both the Southern Bight and eastern Channel. Few larvae were observed in the Southern Bight but they were present in some numbers at the majority of stations worked in the eastern Channel. Their distribution seemed to be much more widespread than for some years past.
- Aim 2. No fishing was carried out due to the lack of suitable echo traces within the area surveyed.

Miscellaneous.

The Nab Tower current meters were recovered intact and returned to Lowestoft.

R J Wood
19 February 1981

SEEN IN DRAFT: G R Oliver - Master
G F Lee - Fishing Skipper

INITIALLED: DJG

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List
R J Wood + 3 extra copies
M W Easey
S Warnes
D R Eaton

