

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

1983 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME: RV CLIONE: CRUISE ~~1~~ 2

STAFF:

- M Greer Walker
- E G Shreeve
- E C E Potter
- T J Storeton West
- Miss L S Emerson
- Mrs T E Benford

DURATION:

25 January - 7 February

LOCALITY:

Southern Bight

AIMS:

To track acoustically tagged male and female plaice on their spawning grounds in the Southern Bight using sector scanning sonar.

PLAN:

CLIONE will sail at 1600h 25 January and steam to the plaice spawning grounds in the Southern Bight identified by CIROLANA. Male and female plaice, preferably caught on the spawning grounds, will be released and tracked in this area as convenient.

GEAR:

- Sector scanner and associated equipment - E Shreeve
- 12 Acoustic tags and testing equipment - T Storeton West
- Day grab Sieves, 1 tray 1lb jars, 20 5lb jars - E Shreeve
- Plaice, sand, deck tanks - P Scholes

M Greer Walker
5 January 1983

INITIALLED: DJG

DISTRIBUTION:

- Basic list +
- M Greer Walker
- E G Shreeve
- E C E Potter
- T J Storeton West
- Miss L S Emerson
- Mrs T E Benford

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

1983 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CLIONE: CRUISE 2.

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

STAFF:

M Greer Walker
E G Shreeve
T J Storeton West
E C E Potter
Miss L S Emerson
Mrs T E Benford

DURATION:

25 January-5 February

LOCALITY:

Southern Bight

AIMS:

To track acoustically tagged male and female plaice on their spawning grounds in the Southern Bight using sector scanning sonar.

NARRATIVE:

CLIONE sailed at 1600 h 25 January and reached Smiths Knoll at 1900 h. Bottom samples were collected from the East and West side of the bank and frozen. At 2100 h CLIONE steamed to the centre of the plaice egg patch which was identified by CIROLANA. An acoustically tagged male plaice was released in this area at 1018 h 26 January and tracked until bad weather intervened 58 h later. With a deteriorating forecast CLIONE sought shelter off Aldburgh dropping anchor there at 0226 h 29 January. It was not possible on account of the weather to resume work until 2 February and the second male plaice was released in the working area at 1517 h and tracked until 1015 h 4 February. The third and last male plaice was released at 1127 h 4 February and tracked over night until 0500 h 5 February when deteriorating weather made work impossible. With no further prospect of tracking before the end of the cruise CLIONE steamed to Lowestoft docking at 1500 h 5 February.

RESULTS:

The first plaice, a male, was released at 1018 h 26 January in a position 52°09.7'N 2°49.3'E and was tracked for 58 h; during this period the fish moved 28 km in a direction of 208°T. At sunset on each of the 3 occasions the fish moved into mid-water and remained there for periods of between 2 and 6 h before returning to the bottom over midnight (26/27, 27/28 January). Similarly, on the two full nights under observation the fish returned to midwater for periods of 2½ and 3½ h immediately before sunrise.

The second plaice (male) was released at 1517 h 2 February in a position 52°18.6'N 2°37.0'E and was tracked for 43 h. The overall movement was 13 km and the

direction 010°T. This fish was caught by G A REAY on 29 January and the maturity was stage VI. This fish was in midwater after release until 1600 h 4 February, a period of 24½ h, thereafter, it remained on the bottom.

The third plaice (male) was released at 1127 h 4 February in a position 52°18.9'N 2°39.1'E and was tracked for 17½ h. The overall movement was 19 km and the direction 170°T. This fish remained on the bottom apart from the single southerly tide (2300-0415 h) at night during which time the fish was in midwater: a similar pattern to the female plaice tracked during CLIONE 1-82.

M Greer Walker
16 February 1983

SEEN IN DRAFT:

Master J R F
Skipper R C N

INITIALLED: DJG

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +

M Greer Walker
E G Shreeve
T J Storeton West
E C E Potter
Miss L S Emerson
Mrs T E Benford
G P Arnold