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Provisional: not to be quoted without reference to the writer

R. V. CLIONE

Report for Cruise 3/1967

Staff:

- A. C. Burd
- W. G. Parnell
- A. M. Watson
- G. J. Howlett
- D. Belden
- D. Harding
- L. F. Khalil (Fisheries Helminthology Unit)

Duration:

4-21 March

Aims:

1. To take part in the international young herring survey of the North Sea stocks.
2. To test plankton gear.
3. To obtain herring for physiological examination.

Narrative:

The ship was delayed sailing by one day due to bad weather. On leaving Lowestoft trials were made with the closing high speed sampler. These trials were made off Corton Lightship and on their successful fulfilment Mr. Harding was put ashore by the Gorleston Pilot boat.

Next day herring trawling commenced in the area east of Smith's Knoll, but after two hauls, deteriorating weather and a poor forecast brought fishing to a stop. Passage was made to the Yorkshire coast where shelter was taken from westerly gales. With an improved forecast passage was made on 7th March to the Dogger edge where work was started. Work was discontinued at 0940/9th when winds reached force 8 again. The ship dodged into the Shields area where on 10th three hauls were made in deteriorating conditions. The ship made for shelter in the Firth of Forth from gales of 8-10. Three hauls were made in the Firth of Forth on 12th when the sea state had improved.

Arrangements had been made to try to make a comparative fishing experiment with ANTON DOHRN, WILLEM BEUKELSZ, and EXPLORER near the Little Fisher Bank. Herring trawling was accomplished in winds up to 27 knots during 13th and 14th. The ship dodged all day on 15th in a force 9 westerly gale, which gusted at times to 11. One haul was made late in the evening of 16th when the wind had dropped to 24 knots. Rendezvous was made with ANTON DOHRN and EXPLORER for the comparative fishing trials on 17th. However only two hauls could be made before work had to be abandoned in 40 knots of wind.

The ship left for the southern North Sea in the hope of getting better weather. However, because of the swell and the gale force westerly winds little westerly direction could be held on the ship's course. Eventually we had to dodge in the White Bank area in a NW gale force 10 on 18th. During the night it was possible to make further progress to the south and the ship entered IJmuiden late on 19th.

With the continuing appalling weather the ship left IJmuiden next evening and returned to Lowestoft.

The cruise was notable for the continuous series of deep depressions, which following one another rapidly, maintained a west-north-westerly air flow over the North Sea. After the first day wind velocities of over 20 knots were normal. In most cases the vessel was working at her weather limit.

I should like to record my appreciation of the fine way the ship's crew worked under most difficult conditions.

Results

We were unable to complete the trawling programme. It was clear from the results obtained and those of the other vessels that there was a very low abundance of 1-group herring in the North Sea.

Dr. Khalil collected nematodes from herring over the series of stations made.

A. C. Burd

3 May 1967

Seen in draft: T.A.S.

Distribution:

Dr. Cole
Mr. Lee
Capt. Aldiss
Dr. Cushing
Mr. Bolster
Mr. Cattley
Mr. Corlett
Mr. Garrod
Dr. Harden Jones
Mr. Iles
Dr. Jamieson
Mr. Margetts
Mr. Trout
Mr. Holden
Dr. Purdom
Mr. Bridger
Mr. Mitson
Mr. Tungate
Mr. Williams
Mr. Wood
Mr. Adams
Mr. Mills
Mr. Kay
Miss Conolly
General Lab.
Lab. Registry
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Mr. Whiting
NIC next cruise (Mr. Jefferies)

Mr. Simpson
Dr. Reynolds
Chief Inspector
All District Inspectors
Fisheries Registry
Captain Sutton
CLIONE file (Captain Sutton)
Mr. Postill
Skipper Lerner
Mr. Buchanan Wollaston
Mr. W. Baird, DAFS
Director, Dublin
Mr. Glover
Hydrographic Department
Dr. Lucas
Director, NIO
Dr. Peachey
Mr. Shelbourne
W.F.A.
Director, Charlottenlund
Director, IJmuiden

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Mr. Parnell
Mr. Watson
Mr. Howlett
Mr. Belden
Mr. Harding
Dr. Khalil