

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

1981 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CLIONE: CRUISE 3

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

STAFF:

D J Symonds
 C L Whiting
 P Walker
 B J P Croucher

DURATION:

Left Lowestoft 1100 h 20 February
 Arrived Lowestoft 2200 h 11 March

All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY:

North Sea

AIMS:

- 1) To tag I and II group gadoids.
- 2) To collect samples of fish for the Environmental Archaeological Unit, York.

Additional aims:

- 3) To collect ripe male and female plaice for Dr M Greer-Walker.
- 4) To obtain otoliths from cod, haddock and whiting to supplement the routine commercial vessel sampling programme.

NARRATIVE:

Due to illness, Mr Parnell was replaced by Mr Croucher. CLIONE sailed from Lowestoft at 1100 h 20 February and proceeded to the Barkum Rough ground where fishing commenced on the following day using the Portuguese-modified Granton trawl. In light to moderate offshore winds, trawling continued uninterrupted for 5 days off the German coast. A move was made to the Horn Reef area overnight on the 25th and 2 days fishing was completed here and further north off the Danish coast before CLIONE, with a forecast of a SE gale, proceeded to Esbjerg arriving at 2230 h 27 February.

Sailing from Esbjerg was delayed until 0900 h 2 March because of the gale force winds. Two trawl hauls were made on the Outer Sylt ground before proceeding overnight to an area west of Texel. Four days fishing were completed off the Dutch coast, mainly round the Brown Ridges, but increasing SW winds during the night of 6 March forced CLIONE to seek more sheltered waters in the Wash. Fishing continued here until the evening of 9 March when a return was made to the Brown Ridges area which was worked until noon on the 11th. CLIONE docked at Lowestoft at 2200 h on the same day.

RESULTS:

- 1) 102 trawl hauls were made and 4717 cod were tagged. Concentrations of I-group cod could not be located and the majority of the tagged fish belonged to the strong 1979 year class (II-groups). The numbers of I group and older fish (as deduced from the length compositions) tagged in each area were:

	Danish Coast	Outer Sylt	German Bight	Dutch Coast	Wash	Total
I-group	25	97	266	164	110	662
Older fish	45	986	1431	964	629	4055
All	70	1083	1697	1128	739	4717

All rejected cod were measured.

Notable catches of whiting (up to 35 baskets per 45 minute tow) were taken at the Brown Ridges on 10 March.

- 2) Samples of 15 fish species were deep frozen for the Environmental Archaeological Unit, York.
- 3) 3 ripe male and 10 ripe female plaice were deep frozen for Dr Greer-Walker.
- 4) Otoliths were taken from 79 cod, 39 haddock and 81 whiting to supplement the commercial vessel sampling programme.

D J Symonds
23 March 1981

SEEN IN DRAFT: JRF Master }
R Graham Fishing Skipper }

INITIALLED: DJG

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +

D J Symonds
C I Whiting
P Walker
B J P Croucher
W G Parnell

Sea Fisheries Committees: Eastern
North Eastern
Northumberland