

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

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1971 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CLIONE: CRUISE 4

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

STAFF

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DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1000 hours 26 March

Arrived Lowestoft 1345 hours 2 April

All times are British Standard Time

LOCALITY

North Sea

AIM

ICES young herring survey. Temperature and salinity observations (surface and bottom) to be made at each station.

NARRATIVE

On leaving Lowestoft the ship steamed north to the first station off Aberdeen which was reached at 1300 hours 27 March. Three more stations were completed in the same area as the first on the following day. On 29 March, three stations between Flamborough Head and Seaham Harbour were worked. The next day (30 March), two hauls were made off the R Humber but no suitable ground could be found in a sampling square off the Lincolnshire coast. This was also the case in a square off the Dutch coast on 31 March, but stations were worked off Smith's Knoll and the Brown Ridge. On 1 April, hauls were made at the Inner Gabbard and South Falls, and one station was worked off the Suffolk coast on 2 April before the ship steamed for Lowestoft.

RESULTS

1. Fourteen of the planned 17 squares were sampled.
2. Young herring were most abundant in the north of the area off Aberdeen; where catch rates of about 200 fish per hour were recorded in three of the squares. Off the Yorkshire coast, catches were mostly between 20 and 80 fish/hour, but on the Wellbank Flat there was a catch of 250 herring/hour.

In the Southern North Sea the herring were mainly adult recovering spents, and the only notable catch was 3 baskets/hour near the Brown Ridge.

3. The herring were fully sampled on board. Samples of sprat, mackerel, Norway pout, and stomachs of various fish from the Brown Ridge (for Mr Tungate) were either deep frozen or formalin-preserved.
4. Hydrographic observations were made at each trawl station.

C T Macer

7 April 1971

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