

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

1978 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CLIONE: CRUISE 5

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

STAFF

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DURATION

Left Lowestoft 0730 h 4 April  
Arrived Lowestoft 1900 h 7 April  
All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY

Outer Dowsing Shoal

AIMS

1. To study the distribution of sandeel larvae around the shoal.
2. To obtain bottom sediment and suspended sediment samples on and around the shoal.
3. To monitor sub-surface water for temperature, salinity, transparency and chlorophyll 'a'.
4. To survey the area using the sector scanner.

NARRATIVE

On leaving Lowestoft, the Environmental Monitor was set up and run throughout most of the cruise. The high speed plankton sampler was calibrated on route to the Outer Dowsing Shoal before working an outer grid of stations around the shoal. On completion of the grid a tighter grid of 12 stations was worked in the vicinity of the shoal. CLIONE then anchored close to the shoal while water samples and current measurements were taken over a 13 hour tidal cycle. The plankton samples were completed by making 4 surface and 4 bottom hauls across a fixed point and on the morning of 7 April, 3 brief transects were worked across the shoal with the sector scanner before returning to Lowestoft.

RESULTS

1. A total of 29 hauls around the Outer Dowsing Shoal were made with the high speed plankton sampler. Most of the samples contained sandeel larvae.

2. Surface, midwater and bottom current velocities were taken every half hour over a 13 hour cycle for comparison with the suspended sediment load in bottom and surface samples collected at the same time.
3. A record of water transparency, dissolved oxygen, pH, salinity, temperature and chlorophyll 'a' was collected during most of the cruise.
4. Much of the seabed either side of the shoal appeared featureless on the scanner with only a few areas of poorly developed sand ribbons. On the shoal itself sand ribbons were not discernable, possibly because they were too small for the scanner to resolve at depths of 10 m or less.

R S Millner  
14 April 1978

SEEN IN DRAFT: G Sinclair  
G F Lee

INITIALED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION:

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