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FISHERIES LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND

1971 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: R V CLIONE: CRUISE 5(a)/1971

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

STAFF

D H Cushing  
A R Margetts  
J P Bridger  
P G Griffiths  
B C Clarke  
I L Davies

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 0830 hours 8 April  
Arrived Liverpool 1130 hours 28 April

LOCALITY

Iceland

AIM

To observe the reaction of fish to the trawl using the ARL Scanner.

NARRATIVE

The naturalist in charge travelled to Iceland aboard R V CIROLANA in order to observe the Simrad integrator at sea. R V CLIONE arrived in Reykjavik on Tuesday, 13 April. The naturalists in charge both ships visited the laboratory and obtained information on the distribution of cod in shallow water, together with the permission to fish inside the Icelandic territorial limits. It was clear that the year class expected on the spawning grounds in southern Iceland had not yet appeared.

On the morning of 14 April, both ships sailed for the area between Reyknes and the Westmann Isles. During the evening of that day and on the morning of 15 April, a number of hauls were made in about 30 fms and in 50 fms by R V CIROLANA. The quantities caught were very low and no fish were observed on the ARL Scanner. However, the bottom was firm and smooth and the acoustic conditions were very good.

On the morning of 16 April it was decided to steam for the grounds just off Snaefell, in the hope that the incoming year class would be found there on its way in from the northwest. By the time CLIONE reached the area, R V CIROLANA had made one haul, catching nothing, and a storm drove both ships to shelter. An echo survey made by R V CIROLANA under poor conditions showed no fish and on 18 April it was decided to steam eastwards. During the 19 April R V CIROLANA caught Norway pout just eastwards of the Westmann Isles, but CLIONE was delayed partly by an accident to the radar scanner and partly by a head sea. On 20 April both ships examined some echo traces without success off the Westmann Isles and R V CLIONE set a course for Ingolfshofdi. R V CIROLANA was delayed for an

hour or so, but she reached the "Hoof" at 0130 hours on the morning of 21 April. She shot the trawl but ran into rough ground and hauled. Later, in daylight, she shot again and caught 25 baskets of large cod in spawning condition. R V CLIONE tried to re ch her position but was caught in strong easterly winds of about 50 knots.

On 21 and 22 April signals had been received from the laboratory asking CLIONE to proceed to the Irish Sea. Our fishing permit expired on the evening of 23 April and the strong easterly winds showed every sign of persisting, so on the evening of 21 April the cruise was abandoned, so that failure in Iceland ensured success in the Irish Sea. On 22 April R V CLIONE turned westerly and the dove was taken off in Westmannaear. On the morning of 23 April CLIONE sailed and after midday was dodging in strong easterly winds about 20 miles from Iceland. 36 hours later her course for Liverpool was resumed.

The cruise failed in its objective: a. because the expected year class did not appear, b. because of persistent easterly winds of around 50 knots, c. the naturalist in charge decided to proceed to Snaefell to look for the incoming year class rather than go eastwards to Ingolfshofdi.

D H Cushing  
4 May 1971

SEEN IN DRAFT: J E M B (master)  
A H Button (Fishing Skipper)

INITIALLED

DISTRIBUTION

Basic list

Dr Cushing  
Mr Margetts  
Mr Bridger  
Mr Griffiths  
Mr Clarke  
Mr Davies