

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

1971 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CLIONE: CRUISE 5B/1971

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

STAFF

R W Blacker
J P Bridger
P G Griffiths
B K Clarke
I L Davies

DURATION

Left Liverpool 1700 hours, 28 April

Arrived Lowestoft 1345 hours, 2 May

All times are British Standard Time

LOCALITY

Morecambe Bay

AIM

To survey the sea bed and associated hydrographic features off Morecambe Bay.

NARRATIVE

After taking on board trawl gear, underwater cameras and the naturalist-in-charge, CLIONE left Liverpool at 1700 hours, 28 April. During that night and most of the next day the ship worked in and around the area where Dutch and Belgian beam-trawlers were fishing for soles. Two transects with trawl hauls and hydrographic observations were made across the area, and further trawl hauls were made in amongst the concentration of fishing vessels. Work was completed at 1640 hours, 29th, and the scientific staff were disembarked at Holyhead at 2145 hours via the pilot boat. CLIONE docked at Lowestoft at 1345 hours, 2 May.

RESULTS

Nine trawl hauls were made just outside and across the area where the beam trawls were, or had been, working. An underwater camera was used on the trawl at all stations. Altogether 1225 fish were caught in the codend and 14 of these were probably dead before being caught. Only nine of these had obviously died long before CLIONE's trawl caught them, the other five being deemed recently dead and may perhaps have been meshed in the trawl during one of the previous hauls. A further 2500 fish were caught in the shrimp-netting codend cover and all were freshly caught fish.

Quantities of benthos were caught at most stations: whelks and whelk eggs attached to old oyster shells, Alcyonium, scallops, Nephrops, various crabs (eg Hyas, Cancer, Portunus etc), starfish (Asterias and Astropecten) were the commonest species. All these were caught alive and undamaged. None of the benthos showed signs of damage other than that which could have been caused during capture.

The underwater camera was used on the trawl at each station, but turbidity obscured the sea bed as far as can be seen from a cursory examination of the negatives.

Oxygen and salinity samples were obtained at 11 stations inside and outside the area where the beam trawlers were working. The results must await analysis at the laboratory.

R W Blacker

5 May 1971

SEEN IN DRAFT: JEM Balfour

INITIALLED: DHC

DISTRIBUTION

Basic list, plus the following:-

Mr Bridger
Mr Griffiths
Mr B K Clarke
Mr I L Davies