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R. V. CLIONE

Report for cruise 6/1969

Staff:

Duration:

C T Macer
W G Parnell
A R Folkard
G J Howlett

18-23 June

Aims:

1. To measure and sample the following factors on the tops of the Norfolk Banks and between them:- current speed, turbidity, light penetration, plankton, and to relate these to the known differences in sand eel abundance.
2. To measure the same factors throughout the tidal cycle and compare them with sand eel catch-rates.
3. To investigate diurnal behaviour of sand eels using the 100 kHz sounder.
4. To bring back live sand eels to the laboratory.

Narrative and results:

CLIONE sailed at 1130 hours, 18 June and steamed for the Norfolk Banks. A line of tin tow net stations and fluorometer observations was started near the Haddock Bank at 1545 hours and completed near the Indefatigable Bank at 1115 hours, 19 June. The tin tow net work was hampered by net clogging caused by Phaeocystis and Ctenophores. A return run over the banks was then made using the fluorometer and the ship then anchored on the Leman Bank, where a 13-hour cycle of observations using the direct reading current meter, photometer, fluorometer and 100 kHz sounder was commenced at 1645 hours. A comparative set of observations off the Bank was started at 0645 hours, 20 June but this had to be terminated at 1250 hours, because of a freshening SE wind.

Contact was then made with the fishing vessel MATANUSKA who was fishing the Outer Dowsing in company with about 50 Danish boats. However, she was having engine trouble and was returning to Grimsby immediately, so it was not possible to obtain catch-rate data.

CLIONE made for the Outer Dowsing and, with a moderation in the weather, anchored on the bank. At 1745 hours, 20 June, a 13-hour cycle of observations similar to that on the Leman Bank was started. At this time, the ship received instructions from the laboratory to terminate the cruise on 23 June. A comparative series of observations off the bank was started at 0845 hours, 21 June and completed at 2145 hours.

The ship then made another run over the Norfolk Banks using the fluorometer, which was completed at 0500 hours, 22 June. Trawl hauls were

were made on the Indefatigable Bank and these yielded suitable specimens of three species of sand eels which were returned live to the laboratory. Artificial fertilisations were performed on two of these species (Ammodytes lanceolatus & Gymnammodytes semisquamatus) and the eggs returned to the laboratory. The ship then steamed for Lowestoft where she docked at 1430 hours, 23 June.

C T Macer
25 June 1969

Seen in draft: H R Sutcliffe, A H Button

Initialled: ACB, AJL

Distribution:

Basic list, plus the following:

C T Macer
W G Parnell
A R Folkard
G J Howlett
Mr V Nielsen, Bantry Fishing Company