

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

FISHERIES LABORATORY; LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND

1981 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CLIONE: CRUISE 6  
(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF

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R C A Bannister

S Flatman

M MacDonald (Lowestoft Fisheries Office)

C Searle (Chief Scientists Group)

M Boon

DURATION

29 April-12 May

Left Lowestoft at 1400 h 29 April

Arrived Lowestoft at 0500 h 12 May

(All times are Greenwich Mean Time)

LOCALITY

English Channel

AIMS

1. To carry out a TTN survey for sole eggs throughout the English Channel.
2. To fish for spawning sole at several spawning centres for tagging.
3. To return 10 live female sole to the Laboratory for reproductive studies (Witthames).

NARRATIVE

The TTN was calibrated without the net on the way south to the Straits of Dover. The net was rigged and the survey commenced at 0535 h, 30 April off Beachy Head. Stations in the Straits of Dover traffic separation zone were completed first; damaged occurred to the TTN off Dover and the fin and nosecone were replaced. The survey continued until interrupted by a distress call from the British yacht "FIASCO" in the Bay of the Seine on 2 May. CLIONE stood by the yacht until the French lifeboat arrived and towed the vessel to port. The survey was interrupted on 3 May by a severe gale and CLIONE anchored off Bembridge, Isle of Wight at 1630 h and, after a short steam in a lull, anchored again in Swanage Bay. The survey was restarted at 0753 h 4 May and continued without further interruption until it was completed amongst the Channel Islands at 1710 h 8 May.

The trawling gear was rigged whilst CLIONE laid overnight and fishing commenced 25' SSW of Portland Bill at 0535 h, 9 May. The gear was badly damaged on the 12th haul in this area on 10 May and had to be replaced. Concentrations of probable sole eggs were found in the TTN samples from the Poole Bay area so CLIONE moved there during the afternoon of 10 May. Trawling recommenced at 1840 h and continued throughout the night until 0305 h 11 May. A trawl belly was lost on the first haul but sole catches were good. CLIONE left Poole Bay and arrived at Lowestoft at 0500 h 12 May.

RESULTS

1. 98 TTN stations were completed. Clogging due to phytoplankton was experienced on approximately a quarter of the stations in two main patches - off Boulogne and off Start Point. The fish eggs from 6 of the samples were picked out during the cruise. A tail-fin and nosecone were damaged. The 30" TTN and electronic equipment worked reasonably well during the cruise with the exception of the flatbed recorder which failed on the first station, and the internal flowmeter which recorded unexpectedly low mechanical values at stations in which clogging occurred. The latter fault appeared at low revolutions and seemed to be due to poor meshing of the conical gear. The electrical meter was thought to give an accurate reading however and so the volume filtered can probably be accurately calculated for each station. Temperature and salinity were recorded at each station using the electrical equipment with the sensor in the deck tanks.
2. A total of 193 Dover soles and 2 sand soles were tagged in 2 days fishing. 45 soles were released 25' SSW Portland and the remainder in Poole Bay. Whilst the fish were of large average size and ripe, none of the female fish were found to be running. A small proportion of the males were running in Poole Bay. One trawl was badly damaged and a belly was lost.
3. 6 ripe female sole were returned to the Laboratory alive.

R G Houghton  
21 May 1981

SEEN IN DRAFT: Master - J R French  
Fishing Skipper - R Graham

INITIALLED: DJG

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List

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