

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

1974 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT R V CLIONE CRUISE 6a

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

STAFF

R R Dickson  
I C White  
R S Millner  
I L Davies  
B Riches  
N Langhorne (IOS Taunton, part-time)

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1505 h 16 April  
Arrived Lowestoft 1930 h 19 April

All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY

English Channel

AIMS

1. To conduct a pre-dredge survey of License Area 260 using the ARL Scanner
2. To conduct a grab survey of the benthic fauna

NARRATIVE

CLIONE sailed at 1505 h 16 April but returned to Lowestoft shortly afterwards to land an injured man. The ship sailed again at 1740 h and proceeded to Portsmouth to install the dome, docking 1355 h 17 April. During the doming operation, the main dome lift wire was found to be stranded and this was replaced. At 1520 h, with Mr Langhorne aboard, CLIONE continued to the survey area in Poole Bay where a Scanner survey of the seabed was conducted between 1936 h and 2300 h. 20 survey legs (trending  $346^{\circ}$ - $166^{\circ}$ ) were worked at 200 yard spacing with the scanner locked on  $256^{\circ}$ ; filming and Video were continuous, and 72 polaroid snaps of seabed features were taken. Between 2300 h, 17 April and 0222h 18 April a grab survey of the area was begun and this was continued between 0740 h and 1425 h. Three 15 minute tows with the Agassiz trawl were then carried out in an attempt to sample the active bottom fauna, and at 1623 h with this work completed CLIONE proceeded to Portsmouth to land Mr Langhorne and to de-dome. At 2115 h 18 April CLIONE sailed for the Sandette Bank where a brief Scanner inspection of Dr Harden Jones' acoustic target was carried out between 0954 h and 1040 h, 19 April. CLIONE then continued to Lowestoft, docking at 1930 h.

Dome distance this cruise 90 n mi

Total dome distance 368 n mi (cover split; replaced 19.4.74)

RESULTS

1. Full ground coverage was achieved during the Scanner survey of Area 260. However, heavy interference reduced the clarity of the display. Since Decca, Scanner and Mufax were equally affected and since this intermittent interference was present both day and night, it was thought that the interference was due to some external radio source in the area; if so it is likely that future surveys will be similarly affected.
2. A total of 77 successful grabs were made at 21 stations in and around Area 260. Samples for sediment analysis were removed at each station before sieving.
3. Of the three Agassiz trawl hauls made, only one was successful. During the second tow the tickler chain snagged and broke preventing the net from fishing. During the third tow the net looped around the frame on lowering and the net was again prevented from fishing. Lack of time precluded further attempts.
4. Dr Harden Jones' acoustic target on the Sandettie Banks was located and filmed to assess its position relative to adjacent seabed ridges.

R R Dickson  
19.4.74

SEEN IN DRAFT J R G

INITIALLED A J L

DISTRIBUTION

Basic List + R R Dickson  
I C White (Burnham-on-Crouch)  
R S Millner  
I L Davies  
B Riches  
N Langhorne (IOS Taunton)  
Mr A J Maynard } Fisheries 2  
Mr G M Pearce } Gt Westminster House  
Mrs R M Young }  
Mr J G Edwards Crown Estate Commissioners