3. The intensity of feeding of dab and plaice was recorded on a percentage fullness basis, and stomach contents preserved for identification. Both species were feeding on a narrower range of food types than in the autumn for example. Plaice were mainly recovering spents feeding heavily and observations suggest that there are three main periods of intake every 24 hours.

4. Difficulties were experienced with the Smith McIntyre grab when the priming mechanism first failed to hold and then failed to trip satisfactorily. In the end, samples were collected with the Peterson Grab. These confirmed how valueless this instrument is for quantitative work. Underwater television was used on one occasion with some success. Although the camera frame tended to bottom as the ship rolled, and hence stirred up mud, intermittent but clear shots of Ophiuroids, worm burrows and hydroids were obtained until a fault developed in the monitor.

5. 100 plaice were deep frozen for chemical analysis by Mr Birkett.

6. A number of live plaice were returned for the acoustic tag programme (Dr Greer Walker), and one female and four male turbot for the hatchery (Dr A Jones).

7. This year '1'-group whiting, cod and to a lesser extent haddock were widely distributed in moderate numbers over the grounds to the west, north and east of the Dogger, where mixed catches of these species and of dabs ranged from one to five baskets per hour and a half tow. Cod-end catches of lemon soles were everywhere higher than in previous years.

8. Fleets of Danish sand eelers were encountered near the Well Bank and on the Horn Reef.

9. Bottom temperature and salinity samples were collected by Nansen water bottle at each ground throughout the cruise.

R C A Bannister

PART II

STAFF

G C Baxter
T C Doddington

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1020 hours 26 May

Arrived Lowestoft 1145 hours 28 May

All times are British Standard Time

LOCALITY

North Sea

AIM

To service stations A and B and relay station C of the ICES Moored Current Meter Network.

NARRATIVE

After leaving Lowestoft, CLIONE proceeded to Station C, arriving there at 0245 hours, 27 May. The current meter rig was laid in position by 0325 hours 27 May, and the ship steamed to station B, which was reached by 1320 hours, 27 May. Here the rig was found to be some 7 cables out of position, and a new rig was laid in the correct position, being established by 1350 hours, 27 May. Recovery of the original rig started at 1425 hours and very extensive damage was found; both current meters had obviously been torn off their A-frames and lost, as the swivel of one remained, whilst one A-frame was completely mangled.

The toroidal buoy was holed all around its periphary, probably by continual chafing by the steel lugs of the sub-surface buoy which had been floating near it. All possible recovery work was completed by 1520 hours and the ship moved on to station A, arriving there at 1850 hours. The rig was lifted, serviced, and replaced by 2018 hours, and CLIONE left for Lowestoft, docking there at 1145 hours, 28 May.

RESULTS

1. Both current meters recovered on station A had worked satisfactorily for the 67 day period.

2. Stations A, B and C were re-laid in good order.

G C Baxter
9 June 1971

SEEN IN DRAFT MRS
AHB

INITIALLED AJL

DISTRIBUTION

Basic list
R C A Bannister
C L Whiting
T Watson
C Lee (Hong Kong)
R Bennett (Milford Haven)
H Richards (Student)

G C Baxter
T C Doddington