

MR BALE

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

1974 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: R V CLIONE: CRUISE 7

(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted with^{out} prior reference to the author)

STAFF

- R C A Bannister
- T Williams
- C L Whiting
- A Cardle (Student)
- M Walker (Student: 20-30 May)

DURATION

9-30 May

LOCALITY

North Sea

AIMS

1. To tag plaice round the Dogger Bank in order to investigate mortality due to the English fishery in the summer, and due to the international fishery in the winter. (1 Project 1.2.1.1.)
2. To compare the performance of the Boothbay net with that of the Scottish young gadoid trawl being used by R V CORELLA for the international 0-group cod survey (Project 1.2.1.2)
3. To collect stratified samples of dab for deep freezing and for fixation for histological purposes (Mr Htun Han).
4. To collect quality specimens of marine fish for model making (Mr Jenner)

NARRATIVE

CLIONE left Lowestoft at 1100 9 May 1974 and after a short halt in Lowestoft roads to repair an engine defect set course in calm weather for the north east Dogger. Between 10 and 19 May work on Aim 1 proceeded as follows:-

DATE	STAFF TIME	GROUND	RECTANGLE	HAULS	TAGGED PLAICE
10.5	0830-2000	Tail End; Coffee Soil	J9/K10	3	66
11.5	0730-2345	E SW Outer Rough	H/J10	8	267
12.5	0730-2300	SE and SW Inner Shoal	H/J11 H/12	8	308
13.5	From 0830	English Klondyke	J13	0 (Dodging)	0
14.5	0830-1000	English Klondyke	J13	1	19
	From 1000-1800		dodging and	0 Steaming	9
	2000-2330	S of East Bank	H13	1	109
15.5	0730-2330	East Bank	H13/H14	9	415
16.5	0730-2400	Middle Bank	J14	9	685
17.5	0830-2300	SW Inner Shoal	H11/12	8	593
18.5	0730-2300	NE & SW Middle Rough	H10, G9	7	283

At 2300 18 May CLIONE proceeded to North Shields, arriving at 1000 19 May. Freshwater and provisions were obtained and scientific staff visited the District Inspectors office. Mr Walker joined the ship, and arrangements were made for Mr Cardle to stay for the remainder of the cruise. One deckhand, taken ill on 20 May, was transferred to hospital. CLIONE left North Shields at 1550 h 20 May and proceeded to Flamborough Head for Aim 2. On arrival at 0200 h 21 May CORELLA was laid preparatory to shooting the young gadoid trawl at dawn when a suitable concentration of young cod had been located, and CLIONE set to work immediately to complete a warp-depth calibration on the Boothbay and to search the area occupied by 0-group cod in previous years. The calibration, carried out with Kelvin tubes because of anomalous behaviour of the cable winch controls, was completed by breakfast time and a joint search of the expected area of distribution began, but by 1800 h only one 0-group cod had been found. To avoid prolonged waste of both ships' time it was decided that CORELLA would proceed immediately on her international survey grid, but return to Flamborough later if time allowed. The Boothbay net was transferred to CORELLA to allow her to fish alternately with the two sets of gear when a suitable concentration of 0-group cod materialised. At 1900 h CLIONE proceeded to the north west Dogger to restart tagging work. Thereafter from 22 to 29 May work proceeded as follows:-

<u>DATE</u>	<u>STAFF TIME</u>	<u>GROUND</u>	<u>RECTANGLE</u>	<u>HAULS</u>	<u>TAGGED PLAICE</u>
22.5	0830-2100	NW Rough	F8/9	7	263
22.5	0730-1930	N. Bank	D10	6	203
24.5	0730-2130	E Middle Rough	F/G9, H10	5	337
25.5	From 0830	Middle Rough	H10	0 (Dodging)	0
26.5	0730-2200	E Middle Rough	H10	3	31
		E Outer Rough	J10	3	69
27.5	0730-2200	Elbow Spit	H8/9	9	204
28.5	0730-2200	Hospital Ground	G/H8	4	206
		Silver Pit	G7	1	0
29.5	0830-1545		Dodging and Steaming		
	1545-1930	Inner Ground	G5	2	59

CLIONE completed trawling at 1930 h 29 May and proceeded to Lowestoft, docking at 0500 h 30 May. Unloading of frozen scientific samples was completed at 0830h.

RESULTS

AIM 1. 94 trawl hauls were completed. Generally plaice fishing was very slack, particularly in the second part of the cruise when wind and swell were from the northwest, a well known "starvation" quarter for the Dogger. A total of 4117 plaice was tagged, representing an average of just under 44 a haul. Best tows were 30 miles west of the Middle Rough, SW of Inner Shoal, and in the East Bank-Middle Bank area. (where 'curly weed' made up to 5 or more baskets a haul). Examination of tank reject plaice indicated a late season, with many of the fish still at the early recovering stage. Length distributions also indicated a goodly proportion of immature fish maturing for the first time, so it is doubtful if the return of spawners to the northerly grounds is fully completed, in which case the present poor performance of the Lowestoft fleet ought to improve soon.

Use of netting liners in the tagging tanks in place of the old fashioned didles greatly facilitated tagging work.

In view of the predominance of cold easterly winds recently the very good incidental catches of coldwater species such as monk and R radiata was interesting. Up to a dozen 'Jumbo' cod and haddock also featured regularly. Lemon soles were quite common and 163 were tagged to follow up recent lemon sole tagging work off Newhaven. 21 turbot were also tagged but this species was unexpectedly sparse and there were no running fish. One hake and 3 baskets of coalfish were caught on the Outer Rough.

AIM 2 After 12 Boothbay hauls this was deferred as described in the narrative. Subsequently radio contact with CORELIA revealed that 0-group cod were abundant in a small area off the Danish coast.

AIM 3 Completed satisfactorily.

AIM 4 Specimens of dogfish, plaice, sole, lemon sole, ling and whiting were deep frozen for Mr Jenner.

INCIDENTAL

1. Anemone and squid were returned alive for the exhibition tank.
2. During the evening of 23 May CLIONE spoke HMS ASHTON, on Fishery Patrol Duties. French stern trawlers now seem to be regular visitors to the north west Dogger region, some of them working pelagic gear.

R C A Bannister
11 June 1974

SEEN IN DRAFT G S M and A H B F/S
INITIALLED A J L
DISTRIBUTION
Basic List R C A Bannister
T Williams
C L Whiting
A Cardle (Student)
M Walker (Student 20-30 May)