

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

1984 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT : RV CLIONE : Cruise 7a

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

STAFF:

R J Law (SIC)

M J Waldoek

D J Harper

A J Murray

Catherine Wright

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DURATION:

Left Lowestoft 2215h 3 June 1984

Arrived Plymouth 1335h 10 June 1984

(All times are GMT)

LOCALITY:

Humber and Thames estuaries, English Channel, Solent and Southampton Water.

AIMS:

1. To carry out a baseline hydrocarbon survey in the English Channel, in an area extending westwards from Kimmeridge.
2. To collect samples of water and sediments from the Solent and Southampton Water for hydrocarbon and GC-MS analysis.
3. To collect samples of seawater for trace metal analysis from the Humber and Thames estuaries, the Solent and various offshore areas.
4. To deploy a two meter current mooring at position 50°37'N 00°45'W (about 6½ miles south of Selsey Bill) in connection with the possible relocation of a dumping ground.

(Aim 4 was an additional aim not included in the original cruise programme)

NARRATIVE:

Following the completion of repairs to the engine CLIONE sailed at 2215h on 3 June, two days later than originally planned. Sampling of water for trace metal analysis began at 0838h on 4 June off the Humber at around high water. Samples were taken at intervals whilst steaming up the Humber, the last sample being taken at 1528h off the Albert Dock in Hull, at low water and a surface salinity of 13.0‰. Sampling resumed off the Spurn light at 1901h and continued until 2130h when the final sample was collected in the Wash. CLIONE then steamed south, four surface sediment samples being taken by grab from the Barrow Deep dumping ground between 1128h and 1204h on 5 June. CLIONE then continued to the Selsey Bill area where the current meters were laid around 0640h on 6 June. Sediment and water sampling began in the eastern Solent at 0816h and continued whilst CLIONE steamed through the eastern Solent and up Southampton Water as far as the NW Netley buoy and then out through the western Solent. 16 stations were worked in all,

the last at 1425h off the Needles. CLIONE anchored overnight in Poole Bay, and sampling of the hydrocarbon grid began at 0600h on 7 June. 17 stations were sampled on 7 June, 18 on 8 June, a further 18 on 9 June and the final 6 stations on the morning of 10 June, the grid being completed at 0944h. During this time CLIONE spent two nights at anchor, off Bridport on 8 June and off Teignmouth on 9 June. CLIONE then proceeded to Plymouth, docking at 1335h on 10 June.

RESULTS:

Despite the loss of two days cruise time the continuous good weather allowed all aims to be successfully completed.

Aim 1 All 59 planned stations were sampled. Water sample extracts and surface sediment samples were stored for later laboratory analysis.

Aim 2 Samples from 16 stations were collected for laboratory analysis. This completed the preliminary programme begun on CLIONE 5a/84.

Aim 3 Samples were collected from the Humber and Solent, as well as various other sites visited during the cruise, but only 1 sample could be collected from the Thames estuary owing to shortage of time. The anodic stripping voltammeter which was to be used during this cruise had unfortunately not been delivered when CLIONE sailed, but some analysis of mercury in seawater was carried out on board.

Aim 4 The current meters were laid successfully. It is planned to recover this mooring at the end of CLIONE 7b/84.

R J Law
10 June 1984

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