

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

1978 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CLIONE: CRUISE 7C

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

STAFF

B C Mumford
Capt T Sellers

DURATION

26 May

LOCALITY

S North Sea: Inshore waters between Lowestoft and Aldeburgh.

AIMS

1. To make trawl hauls in areas between Lowestoft and Aldeburgh where Skippers of inshore fishing vessels, working from Lowestoft had reported oil contamination of the seabed.
2. To obtain samples of the seabed from Dunwich Bank.

NARRATIVE (All times GMT)

CLIONE sailed from Lowestoft at 1000 h 26 May and steamed to a position 4 m E of East Barnard Buoy where trawling commenced at 1103 h. In total four trawl hauls were made between Lowestoft and the Aldeburgh Napes Bank in positions where local inshore fishermen had reported oil in their nets. Seabed samples were taken from the Dunwich Bank. CLIONE returned to Lowestoft at 2200 h.

RESULTS

CLIONE used a 78 ft headline length Granton trawl rigged with a $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter rubber disc groundrope and no bridles. The bosom groundrope was wrapped with heavy chain. After the first haul a 70 ft long $\frac{5}{8}$ " diameter mid-wing tickler chain was added.

Care was taken both when shooting and hauling to keep clear of surface patches of oil which were mainly composed of small globules. After each tow the net was carefully examined for oil on the meshes, groundropes, chains and trawl doors. A very small amount of oil was found on a few of the meshes after the first tow but no marked increase in quantity was noticed on subsequent tows.

All fish and benthos were examined for oil. On the second trawl haul $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles offshore from Southwold one or two Spurdogs had small patches of oil on their skins and one crab was coated on its abdomen. Gut contents of all species of fish caught were examined but no oil was found.

Two seabed samples were taken with a conical dredge. The first, taken at a position on Dunwich bank given by Mr Creber of the Department of Trade consisted of soft sand and mud with small lumps of firmer clay. The second, taken less than 300 yards away gave much firmer clay with a small amount of dead shell in it. Samples of these hauls were kept and later collected by Mr Creber and a representative of the Dutch salvage company concerned.

Small samples of oil on both the net and fish were preserved for Mr P C Wood of the Burnham laboratory.

Trawl hauls were made between the following Decca Chain 5 co-ordinates:

1. Shoot. Red A 2.15, Green C 33.55. Haul. Red A 6.00, Green C 33.52.
2. Shoot. Red J 23.00, Green C 33.25. Haul. Red J 17.85, Green C 34.55.
3. Shoot. Red J 4.65, Green C 41.50. Haul. Red J 0.50, Green C 41.80.
4. Shoot. Red J 15.50, Green C 34.00. Haul. Red J 23.80, Green C 32.30.

SEEN IN DRAFT: G Sinclair - 1st Officer
R Graham - Mate

B C Mumford
6 June 1978

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION: Basic List +

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Capt Sellers