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

1978 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CLIONE: CRUISE 8

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

STAFF:

B C Bedford
G J Howlett
B C Mumford
C L Whiting
L Hawke

DURATION:

Left Lowestoft 1000 h, GMT, 8 June

Arrived Lowestoft 1011 h, GMT, 26 June

AIMS:

1. To tag cod and if possible other gadoid species in the general area of Shetlands, Papa Bank and Sulisker.
2. To obtain specimens in good condition from as many species as possible for the Fishery Officers' fish identification course.
3. To measure the selectivity of a 90 mm. codend for gurnards.
4. To obtain data on the whole weight/gutted weight relationship for as many commercial species as possible.
5. To obtain otoliths from cod, haddock and whiting to supplement the commercial market sampling programme.
6. To bring back live large plaice for Mr Scholes.

NARRATIVE:

CLIONE sailed from Lowestoft at 1000 h, 8 June. Good conditions during the early part of the passage northward gave way to strong northerly winds which on arrival at Fair Isle at 1600 h, 10 June freshened further to gale force. Shelter was sought that evening in Hoswick Bay Shetlands and CLIONE remained there while bad weather persisted throughout 11 and 12 June. A moderation allowed work to begin at the grounds NE of Fair Isle and fishing continued there during 13 and 14 June, the ship returning to a sheltered anchorage each night at Sumburgh to provide steady conditions for carrying out Aim 4. A further 2 days fishing were completed at 'The Patches' ground some 20 miles west of Papa Bank on 15 and 16 June before the ship had to make an unplanned visit to Kirkwall on 17 June to land a crew member who had fallen sick.

CLIONE left Kirkwall at 0730 h, 18 June and returned to The Patches ground for a further 1½ days fishing before an overnight move was made to Muckle Flugga during 19/20 June. Arrival there coincided with a SWly gale and all day 20 June was spent sheltering in Barra Firth. Conditions improved overnight and Muckle Flugga

and Pobie Bank were both fished on 21 June, the ship anchoring at Fetlar that night, again for Aim 4. The 40 Mile Ground east of Sumburgh proved unproductive of gadoids on 22 June so the remainder of that day and 23 June were spent at Fair Isle, again using the anchorage at Sumburgh each night for fish weighing work.

Work was completed at 0130 h, 24 June and the ship left Sumburgh. After a good passage CLIONE docked at Lowestoft at 1011 h, 26 June.

RESULTS

1. The final tally of fish tagged was 640 cod, 46 haddock and 43 coalfish. Most of these were put into two main areas namely Fair Isle/Sumburgh and The Patches at both of which grounds fishing was comparatively good. At all the other areas tried, fishing was very poor. The numbers tagged of each species by grounds are shown in the following table.

Ground	Cod	Haddock	Coalfish
Fair Isle	299	39	35
The Patches	332	7	8
Muckle Flugga	1	-	-
Pobie Bank	8	-	-

As well as the plastic flag tag, a new larger Howitt tag was used to tag cod so that its effectiveness could be assessed against a known standard.

In contrast to the 1977 cruise to the same general area, gear damage was minimal, due in part to greater familiarity with the ground but also to the more substantial bobbin rig used.

2. Specimens from a wide range of flatfish and roundfish were deep frozen for Mr Blacker's fish identification course.

3. A covered cod-end of mean mesh size 82.3 mm was fished for most of the 62 hauls made. Catches of gurnards were very light at all grounds and approximately 85% of the fish caught were within the length range 16-24 cm. All gurnards caught were measured and the 50% retention length was estimated to be roughly 21-22 cm giving a selection factor of 2.5.

4. Data were collected for the length/whole weight/gutted weight/landed condition, (where appropriate) for the following species; cod, haddock, whiting, coalfish, lemon sole, dab, megrim, witch, turbot, hake, monk, ling, tusk, pollock and two species of rays. Comprehensive sets of data were obtained for cod, haddock, whiting, lemon sole and dab but for some other species observations were limited to only two or three specimens.

5. Otoliths were collected from 60 cod, 60 haddock and 43 whiting within the commercial size range for North Sea Sampling Area 1 and from 59 cod and 53 haddock for West of Scotland Sampling Area 1.

6. 10 large plaice were brought back alive for Mr Scholes.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Hearts related to otolithed fish were obtained from 71 cod, 53 haddock and 39 whiting and deep frozen for Dr Greer Walker.

2. Specimen fish of various species were deep frozen for British Museum for moulding and casting models for their ecology exhibition.

3. Food fish for Dr Htun Han's hatchery were obtained.

4. JONSIS 1 was observed during the passage homeward and seen to be upright and in position.

B C Bedford
6 July 1978

SEEN IN DRAFT: JRF
RG

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List

B C Bedford
G J Howlett
B C Mumford
C L Whiting
L Hawke