

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

1990 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORYSTES CRUISE 2

STAFF:       A P Scott (SIC)  
              J Metcalfe  
              A Moore  
              R Turner  
              B Holford  
              M Easy

DURATION:    Left Lowestoft 0940 26 January  
              Arrived Lowestoft 1200 2 February  
              All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCATION: North Sea - Botney Ground, Cromer and Thames Estuary.

AIMS:

1. Collection of mature female plaice for pheromone studies. Sampling length, weight, gonad weight, urine, gut fluid, bile, mucus, blood, ovarian fluid and gonads.
2. Collection of mature female dabs for pheromone studies. Sampling as for plaice.
3. Collection of uncontaminated samples of urine, milt and blood from male flounders and plaice.
4. Collection of plaice pituitaries for gonadotrophin isolation.
5. Collection of marine fish tissues for magnetite studies.
6. Collection of fish for AEP2.

NARRATIVE

The scientific staff boarded CORYSTES at 0800 on Friday, January 26 - the official start date of the cruise. CORYSTES was unable to sail because the deck crew went out on a 24-hour strike in protest over leave conditions. CORYSTES sailed on Saturday at 0940 and headed straight for the Botney Ground.

Two bottom trawls were conducted during the evening. The wind freshened overnight, however, and we had to dodge throughout the next day until a respite in the weather enabled us to do two more trawls on the Sunday evening and five trawls on Monday, January 29. Southerly gales returned, however, and at 1530 on the Monday, CORYSTES headed for shelter off Cromer. All of Tuesday, January 30 was spent trawling off Cromer and during the night of the same day, CORYSTES ran south through humpy seas to the Thames estuary. There was no prospect of an improvement in the weather and Wednesday, January 31, and Thursday, February 1st were spent bottom trawling in the relatively sheltered Falls and East Swin areas. CORYSTES docked at 1200h on Friday, February 2nd.

RESULTS

Catches of male and female plaice were good on the Botney Ground and we were able to sample over 50 female plaice to achieve the first of our aims. Also on the same grounds, we were able to collect pituitary glands (aim 4) from approximately ten baskets of plaice. We would have liked to collect a lot more, but the southerly gales never permitted us to return to the this area and yields of plaice in the other areas were negligible. Lack of time and our inability to return to the Botney Ground also meant that we were unable to sample any dabs (aim 2) or to organise a collection of fish for AEP2 (aim 6). We were successful, however, in collecting uncontaminated urine and sperm samples from male flounders and plaice (aim 3) and putative magnetite tissue from cod (aim 5). R Turner also collected some live fish for return to the laboratory.

SEEN IN DRAFT: G R J Master P Mackay SFM

INITIALLED: J. Shepherd

A P Scott  
14 February 1990

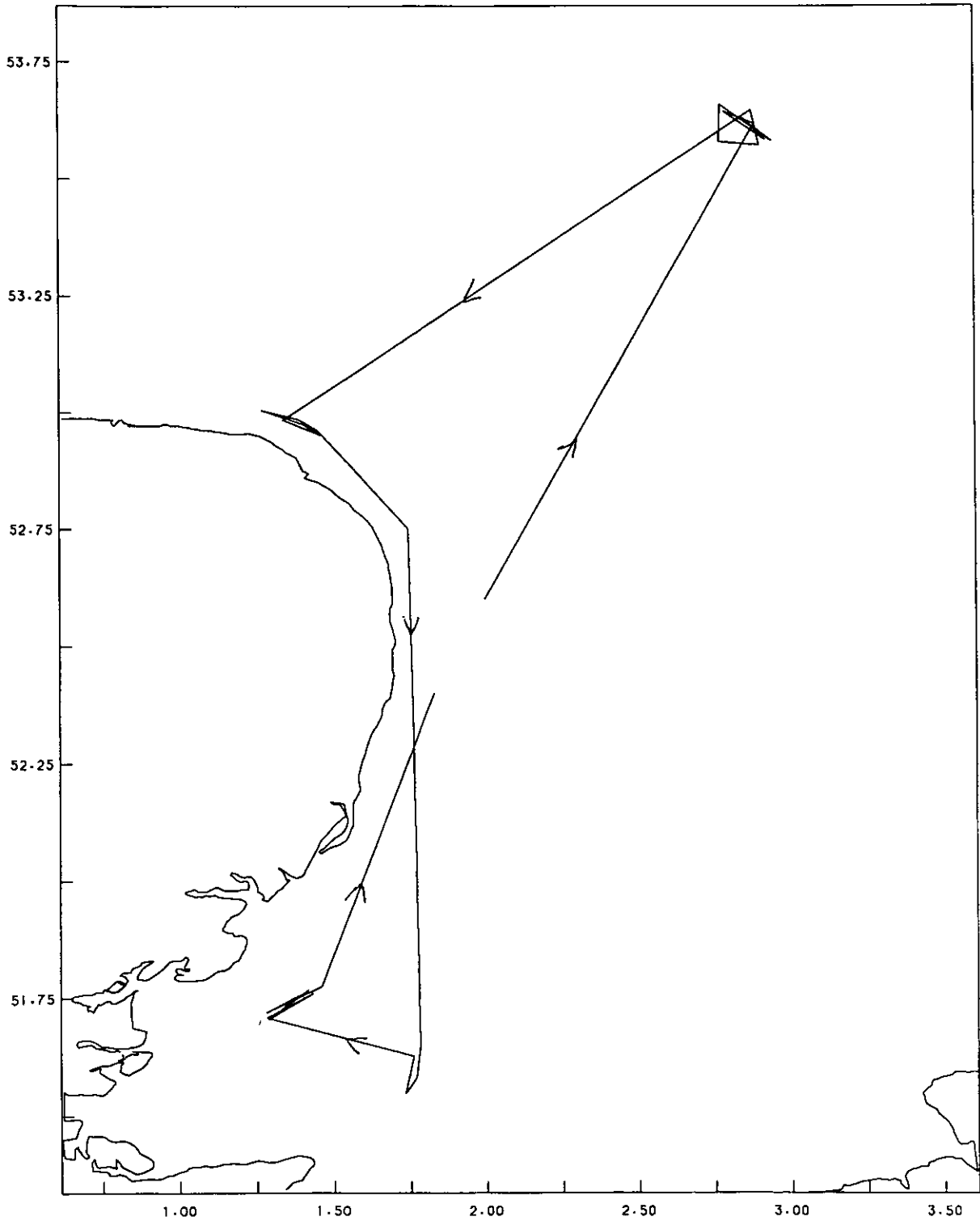
DISTRIBUTION  
Basic list +

Staff on cruise

# CORYSTES 2/90 TRACK

SHOWING :  
CRUISE TRACK  
COASTLINE

LATITUDE



LONGITUDE