

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

1990 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORYSTES CRUISE 6a

STAFF:

S M Rowlatt
G Lees (part-time)
A Franklin (part-time)
F Franklin (part-time)
S W Feist (part-time)
P Hudson
W Doré (part-time)
K Henshilwood (part-time)
M Lambert
P Manning

DURATION:

Left Lowestoft 1630h 5 May
Arrived Lowestoft 1330h 16 May
All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY:

North Sea

AIMS:

1. To collect sediments by grabbing and coring for physical, biological, bacteriological and chemical analysis at the Tyne sewage sludge disposal site.
2. To collect Modiolus and other epifauna off the Humber for biological and chemical analysis.
3. To collect sediment samples throughout the western N. Sea for the JMG 1990 baseline survey.
4. To examine the sediments and benthos and determine the incidence of fish diseases at various N. Sea Task Force stations.

NARRATIVE:

CORYSTES sailed from Lowestoft at 1630h, 5 May, a day later than planned due to industrial action by the crew, and steamed to an area off Cromer. On 6 May samples of horse-mussel (Modiolus) were collected between Cromer and the Humber (aim 2).

CORYSTES then steamed to the Tyne area where grab samples were collected at and around the sewage sludge disposal site for bacteriological, chemical and infaunal analysis. Beam trawl samples were also taken for epifaunal analysis and for an assessment of the distribution of sludge-derived litter.

On completion of this work at 1950h on 7 May CORYSTES steamed to the Dogger Bank, sediment samples being collected en route (aim 3). Fish samples for disease assessment (aim 4) were collected at two sites on the Dogger on 8 and 9 May. The ship then returned to the Tyne area, further grab samples being collected en route.

On 10 May a bathymetric survey of the Wearmouth colliery waste site, a sidescan survey off Hartlepool and two further fish disease sites were worked off the NE coast.

On 11 May an underwater TV survey at Marsden Bay had to be abandoned due to poor weather conditions. CORYSTES then steamed to Lowestoft where Messrs Lees, Feist, Doré and Ms Henshilwood were put ashore on the morning of 12 May. Mr and Mrs Franklin joined the ship at this time.

CORYSTES steamed to the Thames area where a sediment and benthos survey was carried out around the sewage sludge disposal site.

On 13 May a fish sample for chemical analysis was collected at the Thames N. Sea Task Force site.

Further grab samples were collected for the JMG study between Thames and N. Norfolk during the period 13-15 May. Mr Franklin was put ashore at Lowestoft on 15 May.

A video survey of the seabed was carried out at the Cross Sands aggregate extraction site 212 on the morning of 16 May and CORYSTES docked in Lowestoft at 1330h.

RESULTS:

All aims were successfully achieved. In addition a bathymetric survey of the Wearmouth colliery waste disposal site, a sidescan survey off Hartlepool and a biological and chemical survey of the Thames sewage sludge disposal site were carried out. Detailed results will be available after laboratory analysis of the data.

S M Rowlatt
21 May 1990

SEEN IN DRAFT: MJW (master)

INITIALLED: CEP

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +
G Lees
A Franklin
F Franklin
S W Feist
P Hudson
W Doré
K Henshilwood
M Lambert
P Manning

