

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

FISHERIES LABORATORY, PAKEFIELD ROAD, LOWESTOFT NR33 OHT, SUFFOLK

1989 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORYSTES: CRUISE 9

STAFF: J D Riley SIC  
C L Whiting  
M W Easey  
J Dann  
P W Hudson  
B F M Harley

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 0930 hrs 16 August  
Arrived Lowestoft 0630 hrs 28 August  
All times are Greenwich Mean Time.

LOCALITY

English Channel and Southern Bight

AIMS

1. To measure the distribution and abundance of commercial flatfish species by means of a beam trawl survey as part of an ICES coordinated programme covering Divisions IVa-c and VIIId.
2. To produce comparative gear efficiency indices between the standard 4m DFR beam trawl and the 8m beam trawl used by the Belgians and Netherlands Fisheries Institutes, on the joint survey.
3. To collect additional biological data on sole, plaice, dab, turbot and brill.
4. Late additions to aims included the collection of live and frozen samples of fish and water samples - see results.

NARRATIVE:

On leaving Lowestoft CORYSTES carried out propulsion trials off the port and following the putting ashore of the engineers, proceeded overnight to the first survey station near Cap Gris Nez. Between 17 and 21 August the survey of the French coast was carried out and the English coast of ICES division VIIId surveyed from 21-26 August. On 27 August gear variability trials were carried out in the Southern Bight (Falls Gap). (See track plot attached). The gear comparability trials planned with the Belgian Laboratory staff for 28 August, were cancelled due to gale force conditions.

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RESULTS:

1. The beam trawl survey was completed in good weather and with minimum gear damage. Environmental parameters, surface and seabed temperature and salinity and acoustic evaluation of the seabed, were collected at each station using the Shallow water C.T.D., reversing bottles and Simrad EK 400-38 kHz sounder and QM echo integrator. These data will be used to estimate the relative impact of depth, temperature, salinity and seabed sediments on the catch rates. All fish caught were identified, subsampled where necessary and measured.
2. Due to adverse weather the comparative fishing trials were postponed until August 1990.
3. Fish length, weight and otoliths were collected to produce separate age/length and age/weight keys for the French and English coasts for plaice and sole. Dab otoliths were taken on the French coast. All turbot and brill caught were otolithed.
4. Subsidiary aims.
  - (a) Frozen whole samples of commercial sized plaice, sole, dab and flounder were taken in the eastern English Channel for the AEP2 Contaminants study. (Mr A Franklin).
  - (b) About 30 live small dabs were put ashore by dinghy at Weymouth for experimental use. (Mr D Bucke).
  - (c) A water sample was collected off Newhaven for analysis for  $O_2$  isotopes in relation to Scallop studies (Dr P Dare).

Seen in draft Master JF  
Fishing Skipper PM

John D Riley  
30 August 1989

Initialled GPA

Distribution

Basic List +

J D Riley  
C L Whiting  
M W Easey  
J Dann  
P W Hudson  
B F M Harley

R DeClerck, Oostende, Belgium  
A Rijnsdorp, IJmuiden, Netherlands  
M Giret, Ouistreham, France  
A Souplet, Boulogne, France

