

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

1972 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORELLA: CRUISE 2

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

STAFF

- C T Macer
- P D Wallace
- G J Howlett
- A M Watson
- K Ehrlich (Dunstaffnage Laboratory)

DURATION

- Left Lowestoft 1100 h 18 January
- Arrived Lowestoft 0830 h 30 January
- All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY

- Southern North Sea
- Eastern English Channel

AIMS

1. To carry out the MAFF part of the ICES larval herring survey.
2. Collection of adult herring for routine biological sampling and chemical analysis (Burnham).
3. Collection of herring gonads for biochemical studies (Dr McKenzie, Royal Holloway College).
4. Collection of herring larvae for chemical analysis (Mr Ehrlich, Dunstaffnage).
5. To carry out an echo-survey around the Eddystone for pelagic fish.
6. To observe temperature and salinity at each station.

NARRATIVE

CORELLA proceeded to the first tin tow net station 40 miles east of Lowestoft and this was reached at 1650 h, some free-flow calibrations having been completed en route. Work was interrupted on the following morning at 0400 h by a SW gale which reached force 10 at times but it had moderated sufficiently to allow the grid to be continued at 1300 h. At 1700 h, however, news was received of family bereavement and the ship steamed for Yarmouth, where Mr Snowling was disembarked by pilot boat at 2230 h.

The grid was resumed at 0300 h on 20 January and continued in good weather until its completion at 0230 h 24 January; a replacement crew member had been picked up by pilot boat at Dover at 1730 h 21 January. In freshening winds, CORELLA steamed to a station off Boulogne to collect larvae for aim (4) but this had to be abandoned due to a SW gale and the ship entered Boulogne at 1130 h 24 January. Here, water was taken on and the ramp converted to its trawling position; Mr Ehrlich disembarked.

CORELLA left Boulogne at 0900 h 25 January and, after some more tin townet free-flow calibrations had been completed, began work with the Dutch Herring Trawl off Dieppe. After two hauls had been made, however, the net fouled the propellor shaft on shooting and when it became clear that a diver would be required, the ship made for the Solent, where she anchored off Portsmouth at 0100 h 26 January. The propellor shaft was cleared by diver during that day but severe gales from first SW and then NE prevented a return to the trawling grounds. An attempt was made at 1315 h 28 January but a further deterioration in the weather forced the ship to seek a lee off Newhaven where she anchored for the night. With continuing forecasts of NE gales, CORELLA weighed anchor at 0830 h 29 January and steamed for Lowestoft.

RESULTS

- Aim 1: The grid consisting of 87 tin townet stations was completed. Herring larvae appeared to be very scarce on preliminary examination of the samples.
- Aim 2: No adult herring were caught.
and 3:
- Aim 4: About 30 herring larvae were collected in the Southern Bight for Mr Ehrlich.
- Aim 5: There was no time available for this work.
- Aim 6: Surface and bottom temperatures were recorded with the net-mounted thermistor probe at each station, and surface salinity was also sampled.
- Aim 7: A sample of sprats was collected off Dieppe.

C T Macer

3 February 1972

SEEN IN DRAFT JEMB
 RAA

INITIALED AJL

DISTRIBUTION

Basic list...
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