

MR. BALE.

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

1974 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORELLA: CRUISE 2a

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

STAFF

- R J Wood
- P D Wallace
- J H Nichols
- J Dann
- C J Garrod

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1000 h, 24 January

Arrived Southampton 1230 h, 4 February 1974

All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY

Southern North Sea and English Channel

AIMS

1. To carry out a survey for herring larvae in the southern North Sea and English Channel as the last of the ICES surveys of abundance and distribution of autumn-spawned herring larvae in the North Sea and adjacent waters during the 1973/4 spawning season.
2. To release seabed drifters at selected stations within the main areas of herring larvae distribution.
3. To fish either for herring in the eastern Channel or pelagic fish species in the western Channel.

NARRATIVE

CORELLA sailed from Lowestoft at 1000 h, 24 January and set course eastwards. "Free Flow" calibrations were carried out during the afternoon and the ICES herring larvae survey was commenced at 1553 h. During the following 2 days a total of 35 stations were completed before a southerly gale forced CORELLA to seek shelter off Europoort in the Maas Estuary at 1935 h, 26 January. A further 5 stations were worked next day in poor weather conditions before severe southerly gale force winds forced CORELLA to shelter in Margate Roads. An improvement in the weather on 29 January enabled 10 more stations to be completed before another severe southerly gale forced CORELLA to return to the shelter of Margate Roads at 1905 h. No work was possible on 30 January but a moderation in the weather allowed the survey to be continued on 31 January. A further 7 stations were worked by 2000 h when, in view of an imminent warning of further severe gale force winds, CORELLA proceeded to Boulogne in order to deliver a 20" unencased high-speed plankton sampler for use by the Sète laboratory of Institut des Pêches Maritimes. The weather did not moderate sufficiently for CORELLA to leave Boulogne and recommence the herring larval survey until 1820 h, 3 February. Most of the stations extending south-westwards

into the Bay of the Seine were then completed before work had to be terminated at 0749 h, 4 February when the wind again reached gale force from a southerly direction. CORELLA proceeded to Southampton for the changeover of staff for cruise 2b and docked there at 1230 h, 4 February.

RESULTS

Aim 1. In spite of the very adverse weather conditions which prevailed for most of this cruise all the stations in the southern North Sea and over half of those in the English Channel were completed. Small numbers of herring larvae were caught at a few stations only and their overall abundance was very low.

Aim 2. Seabed drifters were released at 3 positions in the main areas of herring larval distribution.

Aim 3. This had to be abandoned due to lack of time.

Miscellaneous. The echo sounder was run continuously during the larval survey but very few pelagic fish traces were recorded.

R J Wood
14 February 1974

SEEN IN DRAFT: JEMB
ETB

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List
R J Wood
F D Wallace
J H Nichols
J Dann
C J Garrod