

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

1976 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORELLA: CRUISE 2A

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

STAFF

G T Thacker  
A P Scott  
B Meggett (Grimsby)  
D Willson (Student)

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1230 h 24 January  
Arrived Lowestoft 1800 h 26 January

LOCALITY

North Sea

AIMS

The collection of the following material

1. Live ripe plaice of both sexes for genetic studies
2. Ripe gonads for fecundity studies
3. Small pelagic fishes for egg predation studies
4. Fish pituitaries and pancreas tissue

NARRATIVE

After a delay of twentyfour hours due to persistent bad weather the ship finally sailed at 1230 h 24 January for the Botney Grounds. The weather subsequently deteriorated once more on nearing the grounds necessitating a reduction in speed to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  knots. CORELLA arrived on station at 0200 h 25 January in northerly winds gusting up to 50 knots. The ship dodged in gale force winds during the early hours and the morning, the wind finally moderating at 1600 h. CORELLA then returned to station arriving at 1830 h. Work commenced at 1855 h when the egg net haul confirmed the presence of a spawning population of fish. Trawling commenced at 2135 h and by 0810 h 26 January all aims had been completed. CORELLA set course for Lowestoft in deteriorating weather conditions arriving at 1800 h.

RESULTS

1. 66 live ripe plaice were collected (34 ♀ + 32 ♂)  
2 ripe flounders plus 1 sole and 1 turbot were also collected
2. Ripe gonads of plaice dab and flounder were obtained
3. Small gadoid samples from a dawn haul were taken from the cod-end cover and preserved.

4. Pancreas tissue was taken from approx 200 plaice and from other species sole dab flounder and whiting.
5. Offshore seawater was collected on station in carboys for FCU section and the Radiobiological Laboratory, and a special collection was made for Mr Folkard.

G T Thacker

3 February 1976

SEEN IN DRAFT J E M Balfour  
E T Bridge

INITIALED AJL

DISTRIBUTION

Basic List

G T Thacker

A P Scott

B Meggett

Miss Willson

Dr Purdom