

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

MR. BAKER.  
Miss Gell

1972 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORELLA: CRUISE 3

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

STAFF

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DURATION

Left Lowestoft 0755 h 12 February

Arrived Lowestoft 0820 h 14 February

All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY

Thames Estuary and Suffolk Coast

AIMS

1. To test the new buoy recovery system on CORELLA
2. To lay a number of recording current meters in the Thames Estuary and off the Suffolk Coast.

NARRATIVE

CORELLA proceeded first to the northern Thames Estuary. On arriving near the West Gunfleet Buoy a current meter rig was laid and then lifted to test the recovery system. On completion of this operation the first station of the Thames Estuary array was laid and fifty sea bed drifters were released. The ship then proceeded towards the Cork Light Vessel in the vicinity of which Captain Sellers transferred to the vessel FELIX TOW.

The second day, 13 February, the remaining seven stations of the Thames Estuary array were laid and fifty drifters released at each.

The ship then proceeded to Sizewell where two more current meter rigs were laid and one hundred drifters dropped at each. A third drop of one hundred drifters was also made at a position between these current meter rigs and the shore. CORELLA then returned to Lowestoft.

RESULTS

In good weather conditions, wind WSW 16 knots and sea slight, CORELLA successfully recovered a current meter rig. This operation took  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours and revealed a number of points of particular difficulty:-

- (a) There was difficulty in manoeuvring up to the buoy and also in working the ship to reduce tension on the buoy wire
- (b) Some running sheaves were too small and shackles tended to jam. All snap shackles on the rig were strained and spoiled
- (c) The wire was fouled by the anchor weights hanging under the forward pulley. A small hoist on the foredeck to lift these weights clear would improve matters considerably.

It seems that when these points have received attention the ship will be capable of lifting a rig in good weather conditions. Winds greater than 16 knots will lead to some difficulty.

In a period of 14 hours on 13 February and working in perfect conditions CORELLA laid 9 current meter rigs demonstrating her capability for this type of work under good conditions.

J W Talbot  
22 February 1972

SEEN IN DRAFT      JEMB  
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