

Mr. Rolfe

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

1975 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORELLA: CRUISE 5a

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

STAFF

K W Wilson (NIC)
M Norton
M S Rolfe
R Nunny
J Everett

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1100h 17 March

Arrived Lowestoft 0730h 27 March

All times are Greenwich Mean Times

LOCALITY

North Sea

AIMS

1. To investigate by a programme of grabbing and trawling the disposal grounds off the Humber, Tyne and Tees (9-4-5).
2. To collect samples of sediment, benthos and fish from these areas for chemical analysis (9-1-1).
3. To survey the colliery waste dumping ground off the Wear.

NARRATIVE

CORELLA arrived at the Humber disposal ground at 1900h 17 March and commenced surveying (Aim 1).

The programme was interrupted on 19 March by north-easterly gales and after sheltering in the Humber for 2 days CORELLA sailed for the Wear ground. An intensive survey of the area was made over the next 3 days to complete Aim 3 when CORELLA sailed northwards to the Tyne grounds. The programme of grabbing and fishing continued on the Blyth, Tyne and Souter Point grounds (23-24 March) and the Tees grounds (25 March) before CORELLA sailed to the Humber ground to finish the survey and complete Aims 1 and 2 (26 March).

RESULTS

The numbers of stations worked with different gear at each of the main disposal areas are shown below:-

	1/10m ² Day Grab	Corner	Agassiz trawl (A) Oyster dredge (D)	Granton trawl
Humber	44	0	0	1
Tyne	35	6	4 (D)*	2
Tees	13	8	0	2
Wear	71	6	5 (A)*	2
Totals	163	20	9	7

* gear badly damaged

All aims were completed successfully though due to the damage to the Agassiz trawl early in the cruise the number of samples of epibenthos obtained for chemical analysis was small. However, a total of 26 samples of fish and shellfish were retained for analysis. The results of the grabbing have enabled fairly detailed pictures of sediment and benthos distributions to be made. Thus, on the Humber ground the sediment was largely coarse sand/gravel with an impoverished benthic fauna, basically a Modiolus community, whereas the Wear area was more complex and several zones could be recognised. There was an inshore zone of clean sand in which Nucula sp. was conspicuous, a zone of rocks and coarse gravel with encrusting and epibenthic organisms, and further offshore a fine silt supporting an Echinocardium/Arms community with Calocaris occurring in the finer sediment. Fragments of coal appeared throughout these zones but minestone and slag showed a restricted distribution. Similar details of sediment and animal distributions were obtained for all grounds.

K W Wilson
(Naturalist in Charge)
7 April 1975

SEEN IN DRAFT JB

EB

INITIALLED AJL

DISTRIBUTION

Basic List

K W Wilson (NIC)

M Norton

M S Rolfe

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