

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

Library

1979 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORELLA: CRUISE 8

STAFF

T Williams
C A Goody
T Watson
M Boon

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1620 h 18 June
Arrived Lowestoft 0730 h 6 July

LOCALITY

North Sea

AIMS

1. To carry out the English section of the International North Sea 0-group gadoid survey.
2. To collect 0-group cod and haddock for Mr Child.
3. To investigate the depth distribution of 0-group gadoids.

NARRATIVE

CORELLA left Lowestoft at 1620 h 18 June and steamed north to commence the survey off Flamborough Head on the morning of 19 June. The survey continued northward along the English and Scottish coasts to the north of the Orkney Islands until 25 June when strong to gale force westerly winds made it impossible to shoot the IYGPT trawl. It was decided to take the mid-cruise break at Kirkwall a day earlier than planned and CORELLA arrived at Kirkwall at 0830 h 26 June. Continued bad weather delayed sailing and CORELLA finally left at 0815 h 28 June to resume the survey west of Orkney.

Strong to gale force winds allowed only four of the five stations west of Orkney to be completed during the next three days and at mid-day on 30 June the station at the mouth of the Pentland Firth was abandoned and in a NW gale CORELLA returned to the NE coast, via the north of Orkney, to resume the survey.

Working south between 1 and 5 July the remaining 15 stations of the survey were completed together with an additional two stations in the Cromarty Firth, the final station being at Flamborough Head.

The numbers of 0-group gadoids found in the NE coast area were not sufficient to carry out the planned Boothbay net survey to establish their depth distribution, so the work was terminated at 1545 h 5 July and CORELLA steamed to Lowestoft arriving at 0730 h 6 July.

RESULTS

The planned survey was completed with the exception of one station in rectangle 46E6, west of Orkney.

The number of 0-group gadoids found along the English NE coast was exceptionally low. During the first half of the survey from Flamborough Head to Berwick only

3 cod, 1 haddock, 1 whiting and 9 saithe were caught in 13 hauls. A repeat of these stations during the second half of the cruise showed some improvement but only 25 cod, 6 haddock and 4 whiting were caught on the second time around

The Firth of Forth and Cromarty Firth areas produced slightly more fish but the highest catches were made west of Orkney where the catch at a single station was 72 cod, 817 haddock, 1758 whiting, 16 blue whiting and 3 norway pout.

In addition to the survey 0-group cod and haddock were deep frozen for Mr Child, sprat samples for Dr Johnson were collected and supplies of fish food frozen for G Thacker.

The Boothbay survey was not carried out due to lack of 0-group fish in the area.

T Williams
10 July 1979

SEEN IN DRAFT: R A Taylor - Master
R C Newrick

INITIALED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List
T Williams
C A Goody
T Watson
M Boon