

LIBRARY

R. V. CORELLA

Report of Cruise 9/1969

<u>Staff</u>	<u>Duration</u>
T. Williams	12-22 May
M. Macdonald	
M. Easey	
R. Bennett (Milford Haven)	
B. Meggett (Grimsby)	

Aims:

1. To tag rays in the area west of longitude 2°E bounded in the north by Flamborough Head and Skate Hole.
2. To bring back live mature female R. clavata and R. montagui.
3. To collect dab samples for Mr. C. Lee.

Narrative

CORELLA sailed at 1830 hours, 12 May and steamed directly to the Flamborough Head ground where fishing commenced at 0700 hours, 13 May. During the following two days a number of grounds were tried in an attempt to find a reasonable concentration of rays, but without success. Working across Sole, Swarte, Broken, Well and Inner Banks workable quantities were finally found south of Haddock Bank. 54 rays were tagged in this area on the 15th and 16th, but the very strong tides made it impossible to continue fishing. The net was very badly torn on two occasions and a new trawl being fitted the second time this occurred.

The preliminary survey had suggested that the Flamborough Head ground offered the best alternative so CORELLA returned there and between 17th and 20th tagged 166 rays, a complete day's fishing being lost on the 19th due to a northerly gale and heavy swell.

On 21 May the tidal conditions allowed a return to the Haddock Bank area but with very disappointing results, 5 hauls yielded only 8 rays and on the final haul only the headline of the trawl was recovered. CORELLA left the fishing ground at 2030 hours and docked at Lowestoft at 1130 hours, 22 May.

Aims:

1. A total of 243 rays were tagged, R. clavata being the commonest species and R. montagui and R. circularis making up the remainder.
2. The following fish were brought back alive:-
  - Mature female R. clavata for Mr. Scholes;
  - Mature female R. montagui for Mr. Holden;
  - A mixture of R. clavata and R. montagui (both sexes) for Hamilton Dock.

3. 29 Dab otoliths from the larger fish were collected for Mr. C. Lee.

T. Williams  
27.5.69

Seen in draft: WC., CNS

Initialed: AJL

Distribution:

Basic list, plus the following:-

T. Williams  
M. Macdonald  
M. Easey  
R. Bennett (Milford Haven)  
B. Meggett (Grimsby)