MISS HOWARD

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

1970 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORELLA: CRUISE 9

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

STAFF

R W Blacker
B C Mumford
P M Hudson

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 0855 hours 17 July

Arrived Lowestoft 1315 hours 5 August

All times are British Standard Time

LOCALITY

North Sea: Shetland and off N.E. England

AIMS

1. To locate fish shoals for Aim 2.

2. To fish especially herring shoals with pelagic trawl and also Dutch herring trawl while CLIONE observes with ARL Sector scanner.

3. If convenient to observe by sonar the fishing action of drift nets.

4. To collect and deep freeze small fish as hatchery fish food.

NARRATIVE

CORELLA left Lowestoft at 0855 hours 17 July and began an echo survey off Scarborough at 2143 hours the same day. During the night coastal waters from Scarborough to the Tyne were surveyed for herring and other fish shoals. At 0935 hours the survey was stopped and the D/F Calibrator was picked up from the North Shields pilot boat. The D/F calibration was completed by 1130 hours 18 July and the echo survey was resumed to cover the Northumberland grounds from the Tyne to the Longstone Light. From there course was set for Shetland.

At 0400 hours 20 July a survey of the coastal waters west-about around Shetland was started at Sunburgh Head, while at the same time CLIONE began a survey further offshore, but east-about. The ship laid for the night north of Fetlar and resumed the survey at 0400 hours 21 July. By the time the survey was completed off Sunburgh Head, westerly gales were forecast so the afternoon of 21 July was spent in sonar practice with an artificial target in company with CLIONE, in sheltered water east of Shetland.

The next four days were spent working with CLIONE in the area west of Shetland where the purse seine fleet was fishing. During the night of 25 July a survey of the area from Foula to Fair Isle was made but no fish concentrations were found. On the 26 and 27 July target towing, surveying and fishing were carried out east of Shetland, before CORELLA entered Lerwick for the mid-trip break at 1530 hours 27 July. While in Lerwick the 800 mesh Engel trawl was replaced by the 1200 mesh Engel.

The ship left Lerwick at 0600 hours 29 July to survey the area west of St Magnus Bay where the Scottish purse seiners were working. No herring shoals were found even where the seiners were searching. Course was set SW to the area where the Norwegian purse seiners were working, but when this area was reached, fresh to strong SW winds prevented work there, so the ship steamed to the NE coast herring grounds.

A survey southwards from St Abbs Head located the drifter fleet 10-12 miles off the Tyne, with herring trawlers working close to the 12 mile limit. Herring traces were also found off Whitby. The remainder of the cruise was spent fishing in this area.

Work was completed at 2030 hours 4 August and course was set for Lowestoft. CORELLA reached Lowestoft at 1315 hours 5 August.

RESULTS

1 & 2. No large fish shoals suitable for aimed fishing were found anywhere, but 6 hauls with the 800 mesh Engel trawl and 7 with the 1200 mesh net were made while CLIONE made observations with the ARL Sector scanner. A "caterpillar" of trawl float targets was towed for observation on three occasions.

Two hauls were made with the Dutch herring trawl but the Sector scanner failed to pick up the net.

3. There was no opportunity to observe drift nets fishing.

4. No small fish were caught for hatchery food.

R W Blacker
10.8.70

SEEN IN DRAFT: W Craig (Master)

(Fishing Skipper)

INITIALLED: HAC

DISTRIBUTION

Basic List
R W Blacker
B C Mumford
P M Hudson