

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

1973 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT RV CORELLA: CRUISE 9

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

STAFF

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DURATION

Left Lowestoft 0700 hours 30 May
Arrived Lowestoft 0900 hours 20 June

LOCALITY

North Sea

AIM

To carry out a survey of 0-group gadoids between 57°30'N and 54°00'N.

NARRATIVE

CORELLA left Lowestoft on the morning of 30 May a day later than planned, the delay being caused by the shortage of one deckhand, and steamed directly to the north eastern end of the survey area. Work commenced at 1700 hours on 31 May using the Capelin trawl with a fine mesh liner. Hauls of one hour's duration were made every 30 miles, and the work continued without interruption until 5 June when CORELLA called at North Shields to collect the Scottish young fish trawl. On the morning of 6 June the new net was taken on board and the Capelin trawl and spares off loaded for return to Lowestoft. The two bridge echo sounders were repaired by the local agents, the MS 35 had been out of action since the beginning of the trip and the MS 44 developed a fault during fishing operations. The ship sailed at 1030 hours and resumed the survey, the first two stations with the Scottish net being repeats of stations previously fished with the Capelin trawl in order to obtain some measure of the relative efficiencies of the two nets.

On the morning of 8 June the port engine intercooler developed a leak and the ship was reduced to one engine. As weather conditions were favourable it was possible to continue the survey. There was sufficient power to tow the net; steaming speed was only reduced to eight knots and so it was decided to break as originally planned in Esbjerg on 11 June and arrange for the spare intercooler to be sent to Esbjerg so that the repairs could be made during the break.

Continuing with reduced power 35 stations were completed by the evening of 9 June when a strong NW wind developed, and prevented any work on 10 June. After dodging for 24 hours and with another bad forecast CORELLA sailed to Esbjerg docking at 0800 hours 11 June. The intercooler was removed but the replacement was held up in Customs and did not reach the ship until 1300 hours on 12 June. When it arrived it was found to be slightly larger than the defective one, but by working continuously the engineers completed the repairs at 0600 hours 13 June. Sailing was then delayed by gale force NW winds and CORELLA finally left Esbjerg at 1135 hours 14 June with a NW force 7 still blowing but SW 4-5 forecast. A heavy swell prevented resumption of work until 0530 hours 15 June when the survey was continued without a break until 1815 hours on 19 June. CORELLA left the southwest corner of the survey area immediately after the final haul and steamed directly back to Lowestoft arriving early in the morning of 20 June. A crew member was landed by boat at 0610 hours for hospital treatment and CORELLA, after carrying out speed trials over the measured mile to calibrate the log, docked at 0900 hours.

RESULTS

A total of 56 hauls were completed, 21 with the Capelin trawl and 35 with the Scottish standard North Sea gadoid trawl.

Fifteen stations of the planned grid were not completed due to the loss of four working days during the cruise, two caused by bad weather and two by engine repairs.

The distribution and density of the 0-group cod were similar to those found last year in the southwest of the area off Flamborough Head. The concentration in the northwest however appeared greater this year and extended down into rectangles H 11, J 11 and K 11.

The small concentration observed last year close to the Scottish coast in rectangles B 11 and B 12 was completely absent.

Small numbers of coalfish were caught at many of the northern stations, but the haul in rectangle F 13 produced 25,244 fish. Haddock were caught in widely scattered areas but mainly in the northeast, and whiting up to 100 for one hours haul were caught in both the northeast and southwest of the area.

Both the Capelin trawl and the Scottish trawl appeared to fish well with a 10-12 metre gap between headline and groundrope. Two stations that were worked early in the cruise with the Capelin trawl were later repeated with the Scottish net and in both instances the catch was very similar.

One sample of mixed sprats and small herring was frozen for Pelagic Section and a quantity of small whiting for fish food.

Seen in Draft J F + C S

T Williams
28 June 1973

INITIALED A J L
Basic List +

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