

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

1974 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORELLA: CRUISE 9

STAFF:

J D Riley
D J Symonds
P Walker
R C Genn (student)

DURATION:

Left Lowestoft 1500 h 13 June
Arrived Lowestoft 2000 h 20 June

All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY:

South coast of England

AIMS:

- 1 To carry out an inshore survey of the English south coast for pelagic fish eggs and larvae using a 50 cm High speed tow net.
- 2 To carry out a similar survey off the Devon and Cornwall coasts with some additional offshore stations for larvae of Cancer pagurus for Dr Bennett (Burnham Laboratory).
- 3 To test an experimental bottom trawl designed to catch metamorphosing flatfish.
- 4 To collect live copepods for Mrs B Thompson.
- 5 To investigate the variability of catch of the 50 cm High Speed tow net.
- 6 To collect dinoflagellate samples from off the East Anglian coast for Dr Dodge (Birkbeck College, London).

Narrative

The ship left Lowestoft at 1500 h 13 June and after tow net calibrations started the plankton survey of the south coast off the North Foreland (Kent) at 2300 h. The sampling of the more offshore stations continued westwards to the Scilly Isles which were circumnavigated during the evening of 15 June after which the inshore stations were sampled eastwards as far as Lyme Bay. On 17 June a series of tow net samples were collected on a circular course round a parachute drogue dropped in Lyme Bay. The inshore survey was then resumed eastwards to Rye Bay. On 19 June an experimental young fish beam trawl was tested in Rye Bay.

Copepods were collected during the night of 19-20 June off Beachy Head and the plankton survey was then resumed and completed at 1000 h 20 June.

After further tow net calibrations en route, Dinoflagellates were collected off Southwold. The CORELLA docked at 2000 h 20 June.

RESULTS

- 1 The inshore fish egg and larval survey was completed as planned, including samples through Devonport and at Town Quay, Southampton.
- 2 The additional offshore stations of Cancer pagurus were completed.
- 3 The experimental bottom trawl caught young flatfish (probably dab) down to 0.9 cm overall length and was quite easily handled from CORELLA.
- 4 Copepods for Mrs Thompson were collected as and where requested and were found in good quantities in the dark at the surface as expected. A further quantity were brought back which were taken in daylight off Southwold. The density of the copepods in the water during the daylight sampling was much greater than that during the night time.
- 5 14 samples were taken at hourly intervals around a drogue dropped in Lyme Bay. The drogue was kept about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile abeam of the ship and shooting and hauling done at a fixed bearing to the drogue. In this way the drift of the drogue was tracked and the variations of ship's speed due to wind compensated for. Any variation in the catch of fish eggs and larvae will be a measure of the whole sampling procedure including sorting identification and documentation.
- 6 The routine collection of Dinoflagellates for Dr Dodge was made about 2 hours before CORELLA entered Lowestoft harbour.

J D Riley
11 July 1974

SEEN IN DRAFT: J E B Captain
C N S Skipper

INITIALLED:
A J L

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List

J D Riley
D J Symonds
P Walker
R C Genn
Mrs B Thompson
Dr D B Bennett (Burnham)