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

1976 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORELLA: CRUISE 9.
(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF

- W G Parnell
- T Watson
- R Cross
- S Hudson
- P A Large

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1100h 14 June.
Arrived Lowestoft 0615h 27 June.
(All times are Greenwich Mean Time)

LOCALITY

North Sea

AIMS

1. To participate in the international o-group gadoid survey.
2. To participate in a comparative fishing experiment with CLIONE.
3. To collect data on the by-catch of macroplankton taken with the young gadoid trawl.
4. To collect a dinoflagellate sample from off the East Anglian coast for Dr Dodge (Birkbeck College, London).

NARRATIVE

CORELLA sailed from Lowestoft at 1100h 14 June and steamed to rectangle D7 off Flamborough where she was joined by CLIONE for a comparative fishing experiment which was to last until 17 June. Fishing with the International Young Gadoid Pelagic Trawl started at 0343 h 15 June and the rectangles west of latitude 1°E and south of 58°30'N allocated to England in the International O. group gadoid survey were worked in good weather. A break was made at 1400h 22 June to steam to North Shields to take on water. CORELLA docked at 1000h 23 June having worked one further rectangle just prior to entry, and left the following day at 0600 h to recommence the survey. The remaining rectangles were then worked and the survey finished at 1305 h 26 June after which a course was set for Lowestoft. A dinoflagellate sample was collected for Dr Dodge at 2024 h 26 June and CORELLA docked at Lowestoft at 0615 h 27 June.

RESULTS

All 42 stations of the planned survey grid were completed. O-group Cod were much more abundant off the N E Coast this year than last, the highest catch of 112 per hours fishing being taken in rectangle C10 just north of North Shields. Other good catches were taken in the rectangles off Scarborough, Blyth and 60 miles off Blyth. More Haddock were also caught this year than last, though the catch rates were below those of Cod. The peak catch of 24 per hours fishing was taken in

rectangle D15 off the Moray Firth. Whiting were more abundant in the south of the survey area (70 per hours fishing were taken off Blyth) but the converse was the case in the north. Saithe were much more abundant but their distribution was confined to those rectangles North of 56°N. Few Norway Pout and no Blue Whiting were caught.

Twelve stations were worked with CLIONE to provide a comparison between catches taken by the International Young Gadoid Pelagic trawl and those taken by the Lowestoft Frame Net.

Data were collected on the by-catch of macroplankton taken with the Young Gadoid trawl. Very big catches of Aurelia aurita were taken, particularly in the Moray Firth. Cyanea lamarcki was also abundant on very many stations. Two samples of herring were deep-frozen for Mr Wood.

Packs of deep frozen sprats and sandeels were collected for the Fish Food Production Unit.

A dinoflagellate sample was collected for Dr Dodge.

Sightings of cetaceans were recorded for Dr Hislop (Aberdeen)

W G Parnell
2 July 1976

SEEN IN DRAFT: J E M Balfour
E T Bridge

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION: Basic List
W G Parnell
T Watson
R Cross
S Hudson
P A Large