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FISHERIES LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND

1977 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

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

STAFF

- M J Holden
- T Williams
- T Watson
- B Large (Scarborough)

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 0800 h 14 June  
Arrived Lowestoft 1640 h 28 June  
All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY

North Sea: north east coast of England and east coast of Scotland.

AIMS

1. To participate in the international North Sea 0-group gadoid survey.
2. To map the detailed distribution of 0-group gadoids off the north east coast within the survey area.

NARRATIVE

After leaving Lowestoft the ship steamed north in deteriorating weather. On arrival at the first station the wind was north, gale force, so after dodging for a few hours and with no improvement forecast it was decided to shelter in the lee of Scarborough Head. The ship anchored in Bridlington Bay at 0800h 15 June. By the following morning the weather had eased sufficiently to start the survey (Aim 1) and the anchor was weighed at 0550 h 16 June. The first survey was completed by 1430 h 21 June, mainly in very poor weather conditions (force 4-5, northerly winds). The second survey was started at 0400 h 22 June and completed by 1020 h 27 June, this time in much better weather conditions. A break was made at Sunderland from 1731 h 22 June to 0705 h 23 June for water and stores.

After completing the international survey it was decided to abandon Aim 2 and steam directly for Lowestoft because one of the deckhands had badly injured an ankle. A trial haul was made with the Lowestoft 2m frame trawl to determine how this could best be worked from the CORELLA.

Throughout the cruise radio contact was maintained with the other vessels taking part in the international survey, EXPLORER, JOHAN HJORT and TRIDENS.

## RESULTS

Aim 1. In the English sector of the survey area one concentration of 0-group gadoids was found close inshore between  $54^{\circ}30'N$  and  $53^{\circ}30'N$  and another in the Firth of Forth. Preliminary comparison with previous years' results indicates that cod are more abundant, haddock less abundant and whiting much less abundant. The mean sizes of all 3 species were larger than in previous years.

Aim 2. No results.

Miscellaneous: 6 samples of 0-group cod, each of 70-100 fish were collected for immunogenetic studies (Mr Child) together with a sample of herring (Mr Wood), 9 samples of sprats (Dr Johnson) and 51 lots of sandeels for fish food (Dr Htun-Han). The by-catches of all species were sampled and length measurements taken. Records were kept of the distribution, abundance and length composition of medusae and of sightings of cetaceans for the Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen. 19 tagged whiting, survivors from experimental work at the laboratory, were released at  $53^{\circ}06'N$   $01^{\circ}24'E$ .

M J Holden  
5 July 1977

SEEN IN DRAFT: Master - G S  
Fishing Skipper - E T Bridge

INITIALLED: AJT

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List  
M J Holden  
T Williams  
T Watson  
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