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

1974 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORELLA: CRUISE 10

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

STAFF

J P Bridger 1-5 July

P R Witthames

S Johannesson (Iceland)

I L Davies 5-10 July

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1835 h, 1 July

Arrived Lowestoft 1040 h, 10 July

All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY

Southern North Sea

AIMS

1. To determine the reactions of plaice to a Granton trawl by extending the series of experiments carried out by CLIONE-CORELLA in 1972/73.
2. Collection of live plaice for future sector scanning cruises.

NARRATIVE

RV CORELLA sailed in company with RV CLIONE at 1835 h, 1 July and anchored in Corton Roads until daylight. A continuous sea water sample was then taken on passage from Corton Roads to Black Bank with the Liverpool University sampler for polychlorinated biphenyls.

RV CLIONE having called at IJmuiden to fit the dome over the ARL Scanner transducer, the two vessels met on Black Bank at 1500 h, 2 July and the first attack on a plaice fitted with a transponding tag began at 1830 h.

Four attacks were made that evening and a further six attacks were made on two fish on 3 July before deteriorating weather forced both vessels to dodge until 0800 h, 4 July. Nine attacks on a further two fish were made on 4 July. The vessel then steamed overnight to Yarmouth to land Mr Bridger whose wife was being admitted to hospital that day.

Mr Bridger left the ship at 0600 h, 5 July off Great Yarmouth and Mr Davies replaced him. CORELLA then proceeded to Smiths Knoll where trawling was carried out from 0830 to 1800 h to collect plaice for future sector scanning cruises. The vessel laid overnight whilst a PCB sample was collected. Next morning after receiving a message from CLIONE, CORELLA steamed to join her on the Black Bank where she arrived at 1500 h. CLIONE had already released an acoustically tagged plaice but, because of the deteriorating weather conditions, it was not possible to attack this fish.

CORELLA carried out 17 attacks on seven plaice on 7, 8, and 9 July. A further PCB sample was taken overnight on 8 July. The joint work ceased at 1100 h, 9 July, so CORELLA steamed to Smiths Knoll where two trawl hauls were made for live plaice. A dinoflagellate sample was collected outside the Cross Sand buoy. CORELLA anchored in Corton Roads at 0018 h, 10 July and docked at Lowestoft at 1040 h.

RESULTS

1. 16 plaice were released by RV CLIONE of which four were never attacked. Of the 36 attacks 21 were classified as hits, i.e. fish were between the trawl doors. A further three fish were within 5 metres of the door. 7 plaice were captured, including one which had defied capture although the trawl had gone over it three times. This fish was eventually caught when the trawl was fitted with a 228 ft door to door tickler of $\frac{5}{8}$ " dia chain.
2. 20 plaice were caught in a good enough condition to be landed for future sector scanning cruises.
3. Heads and gonads of female dabs were collected and preserved for M Htun Han. A stratified length sample of dabs was also collected and deep frozen.
4. 3 PCB samples were taken for Mr Dawson of Liverpool University.
5. A dinoflagellate sample was collected for Dr Dodge of Burkbeck College, London.

J P Bridger
I L Davies
25 July 1974

SEEN IN DRAFT: CS
JEMB

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List

J P Bridger
P R Witthames
S Johannesson, C/o Bridport Gundry Ltd., Bridport, Dorset
I L Davies
Scientific Staff, CLIONE Cruise 9/74
R Dawson, Dept of Oceanography, Liverpool Univeristy
Dr Dodge, Burkbeck College, London