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

1977 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: R V CORELLA: CRUISE 10

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

STAFF: G C Baxter
 A Franklin)
 P M Connor) Part time
 R T Holmes))
 V McCullum)
 P King) Heriot Watt University
 K McGregor)
 A Swain)
 J W Muir) Marconi-Elliott Electric Optical
 D H Howick) Systems - one day only

DURATION: Left Lowestoft 1145 h, 5 July
 Arrived Lowestoft 0600 h, 12 July

All times are GMT

LOCALITY: English Channel

AIMS:

- 1 To fully test the MK II version of the ANGUS vehicle.
- 2 To survey the sea bed on scallop grounds using ANGUS.

NARRATIVE

CORELLA arrived at the eastern end of the scallop beds off the Sussex coast and anchored at 0635 h, 6 July. The ANGUS MK II trials commenced at 0950 h, with a dive in 36 metres. The remainder of the daylight period was spent in assessing the handling qualities of the vehicle relative to the strength of tidal currents as measured by Direct Reading Current Meter, and a figure obtained for the maximum flow in which control could be maintained. On 7 July the scallop survey was started with dives of approximately 2 hours duration on the east and central parts of the bed. Television pictures of the sea bed were obtained, but only 4 scallops were actually seen.

Messrs Muir, Howick, McGregor and Spence joined the ship by small boat from Newhaven at 0800 h, 8 July, and dives were made at the western end of the scallop bed around the daylight slack water periods. The Marconi Elliott television camera was compared with that in ANGUS, and the launching and recovery procedure filmed by Mr Spence. The quality of television pictures from both systems was good, but no scallops could be found. Messrs Holmes, Franklin, Muir, Howick and Spence returned to Newhaven at 1915 h, 8 July, and Mr Connor joined CORELLA.

The survey continued over the next two days, with ANGUS being deployed as often as tidal conditions would permit. A final dive was made at 0615 h, 11 July, and after landing Mr Connor at Newhaven, CORELLA left for Lowestoft, docking there at 0600 h, 12 July.

RESULTS

1 The ANGUS MK II vehicle was fully tested, and spent some 20 hours submerged in depths ranging from 20 to 45 m. It was found to be easy to launch and recover, to have unlimited endurance, and to be powerful enough to operate in tidal streams of up to 80 cm/sec. The quality of television pictures was generally good, but would be improved by the use of a better camera.

2 A visual survey of the sea bed for scallops, consisting of a dive of average duration 2 hours on each of 10 sampling positions was made. Few live scallops could be positively identified, the maximum number being 5 scallops and 6 queens on station 5. The ANGUS navigational system was not available, and so the actual area surveyed in each case was indeterminate, but a reasonable estimate would be 800 square meters. All the scallops seen, and any other items considered to be of interest were recorded on video tape.

G C Baxter
21 July 1977

SEEN IN DRAFT: J E M B (Master)
T J D (Fishing skipper)

INITIALLED: A J L

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List

G C Baxter
A Franklin
P M Connor
R Holmes)
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