

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

1982 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORELLA: CRUISE 10
(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF:

- P D Wallace
- W A Dawson
- D R Eaton
- J Dann
- A J Briggs

DURATION:

Left Lowestoft 1000 h 5 July
Arrived Lowestoft 0500 h 16 July

AIMS:

1. To locate and sample spawning mackerel in the North Sea for stock separation studies.
2. To collect mackerel ovaries for fecundity studies.
3. To obtain samples of whole mackerel for studies of stock separation by parasites for Dr McKenzie (Aberdeen).
4. To obtain mackerel tissue samples for Dr Jamieson's stock separation studies.

NARRATIVE:

CORELLA steamed North to start work at the first trawling station arriving there at 0600 h on 6 July. Three trawl hauls were made in the area which was just to the North of the North East Bank, then during the night the ship moved to a trawling position near the Auk oil rig and fishing continued throughout the day with the Portuguese High Headline trawl and some feathering took place in the evening. Over the next few days fishing took place starting in the Great Fisher Bank area and working North to 59°50'N, 03°09'E. in generally good weather conditions.

As few mackerel were caught in the northern most part of the survey area CORELLA moved South on 10 July and worked on the Little Fisher and Monkey Banks. On 13 July CORELLA entered Esbjerg to take on water docking at 1400 h and left at 0900 h the following day. The ship steamed to a position 15 miles SSE of the White Bank where mackerel feathering took place. On 15 July trawling and feathering was carried out on the Botney Ground before the ship steamed back to Lowestoft where she arrived at 0500 h on 16 July.

RESULTS:

1. Fish traces were very sparse throughout the area surveyed and although spawning mackerel were found near the North-East Bank and Botney Gut, trawling yielded very few mackerel. However some mackerel were obtained by feathering at different depths over the survey area. Mackerel were often caught near the surface and in mid water although no traces were

seen. Clearly the spawning and recently spawned mackerel were widely and thinly dispersed over a large area of the North Sea. However length stratified samples of mackerel were carried out over the area - 92 fish being examined for length, sex, maturity, weight and age from AREA IVA and 257 fish from AREA IVB.

2. No early stage ovaries were found in any of the fish examined - most of the fish were either spawning or spent.
3. Two samples of whole mackerel were obtained for Dr McKenzie (Aberdeen).
4. Two mackerel tissue samples were obtained for Dr Jamieson.
5. Three herring samples were obtained for Mr R J Wood.
6. One sample of Norway Pout was frozen for Mr Dann.
7. Samples of offshore sea water were obtained for CCAP Cambridge.
8. 163 horse mackerel were sampled after being caught in the Botney Gut area.

P D Wallace
26 July 1982

SEEN IN DRAFT:

G Sinclair (Master)

R C Newrick (Fishing Skipper)

INITIALLED: DJG

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List

P D Wallace

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