

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

1977 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT R V CORELLA: CRUISE 11

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

STAFF: P Scholes P Scholes)
J Shepherd J Nichols) for 19 July filming
I L Davies BBC Team)
C Garrod
S Milligan

DURATION: Left Lowestoft 0900 h 19 July
Arrived Lowestoft 0600 h 29 July

All times are GMT

LOCALITY: Sizewell Bank, Brown Bank, North Sea

AIMS:

- 1 To provide BBC with facilities for filming for their Open University course in oceanography.
- 2 To evaluate with R V CLIONE the efficiency of the Granton trawl in catching plaice when rigged with a door to door tickler chain.
- 3 To obtain 200 live sandeels and return them to the Laboratory.

NARRATIVE:

CORELLA sailed from Lowestoft at 0900 h on 19 July with the BBC production team and Messrs Scholes and Nichols on board, and proceeded to the Sizewell Bank area. After a successful demonstration of the operation of the tin tow net and shooting the Granton trawl the ship returned to land the BBC team and Mr Nichols and to embark the scientific team. The ship sailed on the same tide at 2130 h and proceeded to the area of the Brown Bank to rendezvous with CLIONE. From the evening of the 20th until the 23rd the ship worked with R V CLIONE attempting to catch the acoustically tagged fish released from CLIONE while the people on board watched the capture process and and reaction of the fish to CORELLA's gear with CLIONE's sector scanner.

On the 23rd the wind rose and the weather worsened towards evening, making it difficult to work and we took advantage of this break in the weather to steam to Den Helder to obtain water arriving there at 1000 h 24 July. We left at 1730 h but since the weather was still bad, anchored for the night in the Marsdiep. We weighed anchor on the morning of 25th and joined CLIONE in the Brown Bank area working again with her until the sector scanner developed a fault on the evening of the 26th. The 27th was spent trawling for live fish for the Laboratory while the sector scanner was being mended. By the afternoon of the 27th the scanner was operational again and we continued working with the CLIONE until 1717 h on the 28th. After a final trawl haul for live dabs and plaice the ship set course for Lowestoft arriving at 0700 h 29 July.

RESULTS

1 The BBC production team were shown how the Tin Tow Net and the Granton Trawl were used on board ship and they thanked both scientific staff and ships' crew for their cooperation and patience.

2 The results of the sector scanner work with CLIONE was that, of the total of 35 attempts to catch the marked fish, in 12 cases the ship's gear was either inside or outside the target and the attempt was recorded as a miss: in 10 cases the target was between the otter boards and interacted with the gear but escaped subsequently and this was recorded as a hit. In 13 cases the target was between the doors interacted with the gear and was subsequently captured. On CLIONE good pictures were obtained of the reactions of the fish to different parts of CORELLA's gear and these were recorded on video tape for analysis later.

3 During the cruise the miniscanner was used twice. A fish target was located with some difficulty but once located could be kept on screen and visible at the maximum range of 360 m. On closing the target remained visible to 60 m but at 50 m it became very difficult to see.

4 No sandeels were obtained because of lack of time.

5 Miscellaneous Results. A sample of mackerel was obtained by feathering over the ship's side, (Dr S Lockwood). Hearts of several different species were collected and preserved for return to the Laboratory and examination of muscle pathology, (Dr M G Walker). Live and freshly dead dabs and plaice were returned to the Laboratory for extraction of plasma membranes from pancreatic tissues (Dr V Bye). Live copepods were taken at Smith's Knoll for return to the Laboratory (Dr B Thompson).

P Scholes
18 August 1977

SEEN IN DRAFT: JEMB (Master)
EHB (Fishing Skipper)

INITIALLED: A J L

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List

P Scholes
J Shepherd
I L Davies
C Garrod
S Milligan
J Nichols