

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

1979 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORELLA: CRUISE 11
(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF

A Franklin
P E Davidson
P M Connor
B C Mumford)
G D Pickett) Part time
J M Everett)

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1400 h 13 September
Arrived Lowestoft 0001 h 26 September

LOCALITY

English Channel

AIMS

1. To develop an effective system of sampling scallop populations using French dredges, suitable for the vessel.
2. To survey for scallops in selected areas of the Channel between the Isle of Wight and the Isles of Scilly, up to 40 miles offshore.
3. To dredge and compare results obtained in a number of areas previously surveyed by the French research vessel LA PELAGIA.
4. To retrieve two toroidal buoy units (one off Lulworth and one off Start Point) used for pectinid spat collection studies.

NARRATIVE

CORELLA sailed at 1400 h, 13 September and steamed to the eastern Channel where trial dredging commenced on the 14th, south of Shoreham. Aim 1 was quickly accomplished and survey stations were then worked (each a 10 minute dredge haul at 3 knots) in areas previously surveyed by French scientists. Surveying then continued to the westward, with stations being worked to the south of the Isle of Wight on the 15th and south of Weymouth on the 16th. Staff were changed over by pilot vessel from Weymouth on the evening of the 16th, Mr Mumford being put ashore and Messrs Pickett and Everett joining the vessel.

The toroid off Lulworth had broken adrift, the buoy coming ashore at Warbarrow beach; an unsuccessful attempt was made on the morning of the 17th to grapple for the remaining scallop bags. Surveying then continued south of Portland Bill. Bad weather prevented work on the 18th, but surveying re-commenced on the 19th, NW of Guernsey. The mid-cruise break was taken at St Peter Port on the 20th and the dredge survey then continued, with stations being worked to the west of the Channel Islands on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd. CORELLA then steamed to Start Bay where the second toroidal

was successfully retrieved and the spat collecting bags redeployed, on the morning of the 24th. Mr Pickett was then put ashore at Brixham by pilot boat and CORELLA steamed for Lowestoft docking there at 0001 h, 26 September.

RESULTS

1. An effective scallop sampling system was developed; the gear generally worked very satisfactorily, except in heavy swell conditions when the dredges tended to turn over. A total of 65 stations were completed during the cruise.
2. Surveying was carried out in a number of separate areas. Scallops were found to be absent south of the Isle of Wight and it seems likely that the populations in the eastern and western Channel can be considered separately for management purposes. Scallops were present at most stations on the offshore grounds to the west of the Channel Islands. Good catches were occasionally obtained, but the grounds were extremely stoney.
A full survey report will be produced as soon as possible.
3. Good comparative results were obtained in eastern Channel areas previously surveyed by French scientists.
4. The surviving toroidal buoy was recovered satisfactorily.
5. Additional work.

Notes were kept on the general condition (as per ICES paper CM1971/B:5) of finfish caught as a by-catch in the dredges.

A sample of 50 scallops were obtained for FRL from the Guernsey area.

Andrew Franklin
28 September 1979

SEEN IN DRAFT: G Sinclair (Master)
R C Newrick (Fishing Skipper)

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List
A Franklin
P E Davidson
P M Connor
B C Mumford
G D Pickett
J M Everett