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FISHERIES LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND

1970 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORELLA: CRUISE 12B/70

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

STAFF

M J Holden  
R Houghton  
L Emerson  
M Easey  
D Peek

DURATION

Left Dover 1800 hours 7 December

Arrived Lowestoft 1230 hours 18 December

All times are British Standard Time

LOCALITY

English Channel; Southern Bight

AIMS

1. To carry out a routine egg and larval survey of both the Southern Bight and the eastern English Channel.
2. To carry out an egg and larval survey in Lyme Bay.
3. To trawl for spawning plaice in Lyme Bay.
4. To obtain small gadoids for Mr A Jones.
5. To obtain samples of fish for Dr Portmann.
6. To tag rays if caught in sufficient quantities.

NARRATIVE

Immediately after leaving Dover calibration tows were made with the tin tow net (TTN) and the survey of the eastern English Channel was started. The survey had to be discontinued at 2000 hours 8 December in order to take the fishing skipper into Dover so that he could return to Lowestoft for family reasons. The grid was resumed at 0715 hours 9 December and the line of stations was continued south of the Isle of Wight to make a continuous grid down the Western English Channel as far west as Falmouth and as far south as the 40 fathom line. This part of the survey was completed by 1315 hours 11 December. The ship then proceeded to Falmouth where she anchored and was rigged for trawling. Sailing at 1600 hours one haul was made south of the Wolf Rock to obtain fish for Dr Portmann and the ship then steamed overnight to south of Start Point to start the trawl survey. The first day of this was completely abortive, the trawl being badly torn on the first haul and completely written off on the

second. The ship then steamed to Tor Bay where she anchored at 1730 hours 12 December and a new trawl was rigged. The trawl survey was completed the following day, the ship returning to Start Bay to rig for tin tow netting. The egg survey was recommenced at 2225 hours 13 December in Start Bay and the grid in the western half of the English Channel completed with a line of inshore stations running from there to west of the Isle of Wight.

The survey in the Southern Bight was started at 0140 hours 15 December and finished at 1835 hours 17 December. After collecting a sample of live plankton at Smiths Knoll the ship proceeded to Lowestoft.

#### RESULTS

- Aims 1 and 2: Fifty-three stations were sampled in the English Channel and 40 stations in the Southern Bight. All of the stations on the Southern Bight grid were sampled except for eight stations on the northern-most leg which had to be abandoned because of bad weather.
- Aim 3: Fifty-nine plaice, 50 soles and 1 lemon sole were sampled for length, sex, maturity; gut contents and otoliths were taken. Nine female plaice gonads were collected.
- Aim 4: Three samples of small gadoids were collected for Mr A Jones.
- Aim 5: Samples of herring, plaice, whiting and mackerel were collected for Dr Portmann.
- Aim 6: Insufficient rays were caught to warrant tagging.
- Miscellaneous: Two samples of small scads were collected for Mr T Macer and a sample of live plankton for Mr Wimpenny. The echo sounder and thermster were run continuously throughout the cruise.

M J Holden

22 December 1970

Seen in Draft

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AJL

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