

Provisional - Not to be quoted without prior reference to the writer

RV CORELLA

Report of Cruise 13/1969

Staff: T Williams
R Tucker
S Flatman
C Cheeseman (student)
C P J Forster (MBA) part-time

Duration: 14-28 August 1969

Aims:

1. To tag soles in the Flamborough Off Grounds area.
2. To collect dab samples for Mr C Lee.
3. To continue R clavata and R montagui fecundity studies for Mr Holden and bring back live mature female R montagui to the Laboratory.

Narrative:

CORELLA left Lowestoft at 1030 hours on 14 August and steamed directly to a position 30 miles east of Flamborough Head where fishing with the standard Granton trawl commenced at 2100 hours. Fishing during the hours of darkness using either the Granton or the 10 metre beam trawl continued without interruption, until the night of 21 August when a strong NW wind and a heavy swell stopped work after the first haul of the evening. After dodging on the fishing ground all night, we steamed into Bridlington Bay for shelter during the daylight hours of 22 August, moving out again at nightfall to continue work. Only one more nights work was possible before bad weather again intervened, and on the morning of 23 August, we steamed into Grimsby to shelter from a NW gale, arriving at 1600 hours. With improved weather on 24 August, CORELLA left Grimsby at 1630 hours and returned to the fishing ground and resumed work at 2100 hours. Two more nights work were possible before the weather again became too bad to catch fish for tagging and it was decided to commence fishing for mature rays to take back to the Laboratory. Hauls on the Flamborough Head Ground on 26 August off Mablethorpe and off Lowestoft, on 27 August produced no mature rays. Finally, two hauls off Southwold produced the necessary fish and the last haul was completed at 2315 hours, 27 August. CORELLA then returned to Lowestoft and docked at 0930 hours, 28 August. (Mr Forster docked at Bridlington on Tuesday, 19 August.)

Results:

A total of 257 soles, 155 caught by beam trawl and 102 by Granton trawl were tagged, also 185 plaice - 115 beam caught and 70 Granton caught.

It was soon evident that the quality of the soles caught by the two trawls was very different, the beam trawl-caught fish being in excellent condition and very lively, while the fish taken in the Granton trawl were in very poor condition and sluggish. It was therefore decided to tag a number of plaice in addition to the soles so that the rate of recapture of the two species caught by the two different trawls could be compared.

Ninety-seven Dab otoliths for Mr C Lee, 59 Plaice otoliths for Mr R C A Bannister and 18 Turbot and Brill otoliths for Mr A Jones were collected. Four mature female R. clavata were brought back alive for Mr P Scholes.

T Williams
28/8/69

Seen in draft: WC
CNS
AJL

Distribution:

Basic list plus the following:

Scientific staff on cruise

R Tucker
S Flatman
C Cheeseman
C P J Forster (MBA)