

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

1972 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORELLA: CRUISE 14

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

STAFF

G C Bolster
P D Wallace
J Dann
T W Boon
R B Doyle

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1330 h 29 September

Arrived Lowestoft 1015 h 12 October

All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY

North Sea and English Channel

AIMS

1. To carry out a tin tow net survey covering the Dogger and Whitby areas as part of an international survey of the abundance and distribution of autumn spawned herring in the North Sea;
2. To obtain samples of herrings in the Whitby area;
3. To make an echo sounder survey over all the area covered during the Cruise;
4. To tag mackerel in the region of the Varne Lightvessel and in the Folkestone area;
5. To bring samples of live plankton to the laboratory.

NARRATIVE

Good weather prevailed throughout the period of this cruise until the afternoon of 11 October.

RV CORELLA left Lowestoft at 1330 h 29 September and proceeded via the Whitby area to plankton station 1. After free-flow tests were completed, 105 tin-tow net (TTN) stations and 23 salinity and bottom temperature observations were worked without incident between Latitude 55° 55' N, Longitude 01° 30' W, and Latitude 53° 25' N, Longitude 01° 10' E, between 1440 h, 30 September and 0700 h, 6 October. The Echo-survey during this part of the cruise showed very few traces even in the Whitby area. Because of this, Aim 2 was not attempted, and with the good weather continuing the ship proceeded direct to the moored current meters at Stations J and K (CLIONE 11/72) and recovered them without any difficulty between 1555 h and 1743 h 6 October.

Course was set for the Varne Bank where a search for traces on which lines with "feathers" could be used for mackerel began at 0800 h, 7 October. This work was continued along the South coast as follows:-

- 7 October - Varne, Dungeness, Newhaven
- 8 October - Newhaven - Owers Lightship
- 9 October - Barry Head - Chosil Bank

Reasonably good traces were found in most of these areas but only eleven mackerel were caught. At 1630 h 9 October course was set for the Hurd Deep where on the 10th five "feathering" stations were worked between 0725 h and 1330 h. These produced four mackerel and seven pollack. Good plume traces were found on the edge of Deep during the transects. The 1200 Engles trawl was shot through these at 1400 h. The catch consisted of 27 baskets of Red Sea Bream (Pagellus bogaraveo, Brunnich, 1768), 1 basket of Black Sea Bream (Spondyliosoma cantharus (Linn, 1758)), 1 basket of Horse Mackerel (Trachurus trachurus (Linn, 1758)) and 6 Mackerel (Scombrus scombrus (Linn, 1758)). Feathering in the same area later produced six Red Sea Bream.

On 11 October the weather began to deteriorate during the afternoon. Course was set for Lowestoft at 1800 h where, after a rough passage and at first, poor visibility, the ship berthed at 1015 h, 12 October.

RESULTS

1. 105 TTN stations incorporating 23 hydrographic observations were carried out as per plan in numerical order;
2. An extensive echo-sounder survey was made over the whole of the TTN survey, and along the south of the Hurd Deep;
3. Two moored current meters were recovered;
4. Eight mackerel were tagged;
5. The following samples from the Hurd Deep were frozen and brought to the laboratory:-
Horse Mackerel, Red and Black Sea Bream, Mackerel.
6. Samples of live plankton taken in the Channel were brought to the laboratory for Mrs Thompson.

G C Bolster
16 October 1972

SEEN IN DRAFT

WC

INITIALED

CS

DISTRIBUTION

AJL

Basic List

G C Bolster

P D Wallace

J Dann

T W Boon