

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

1979 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORELLA: CRUISE 14
(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF

R G Houghton
C L Whiting
S Flatman
M White
R Cross

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1607 h 29 November 1979
Arrived Lowestoft 0815 h 17 December 1979
(All times are Greenwich Mean Time)

LOCALITY

English Channel

AIMS

1. To carry out groundfish surveys of the eastern and western English Channel.
2. To collect sediment samples at the groundfish survey stations in the western channel.
3. To collect plaice ovaries for fecundity work. (Dr Bannister).
4. To collect mixed gadoids for fish food (Dr Lincoln).
5. To collect a variety of fish for the fish identification course (Mr Blacker).
6. To complete 3 trawl hauls in the southern North Sea for pre-recruit abundance estimation (Mr Jones).

NARRATIVE

After leaving Lowestoft piers at 1640 h 29 November, CORELLA sailed south into the English Channel. Beginning at 0630 h 4 hauls were completed on 30 November in Rye Bay, near Royal Sovereign and off Beachy Head. 3 hauls were completed on the following day between Newhaven and Selsey Bill by 1415 h and the remainder of the day was spent mending the net which was damaged in the final haul. Further damage occurred during the second of four hauls in mid-channel on 2 December and the final haul was completed at 1950 h, CORELLA then steamed to Portsmouth to put a deckhand ashore. This was accomplished at 2320 h and the vessel sailed overnight to the Bay of the Seine. Damage occurred on the first haul in this area on 3 December but a further 3 hauls were completed by 1910 h. 3 more hauls were achieved on 4 December along the French coast from Pte d'Ailly towards Boulogne. It was not possible to fish the station off Boulogne because of the large number of French vessels which were fishing there with drift nets. CORELLA was

boarded by French Customs Officials at 1520 h 4 December, who inspected the documents giving us permission to fish in French waters. The final haul of the day was completed on the Bullock Bank at 1915 h and CORELLA steamed to Dover to pick up a replacement deckhand.

After leaving Dover at 0010 h 5 December CORELLA arrived at the next station to the west of Le Bassurelle by breakfast time but spent most of the day dodging into a 30 knot SW wind. The station was completed during a lull by 1848 h and the vessel continued dodging. 5 hauls were completed on 6 December off Cap d'Antifer and in mid-Channel; damage occurred on the second haul and the last station of the day was completed at 1940 h. 2 further hauls were completed on 7 December in mid-Channel but the starboard block was damaged on the first hauls and had to be replaced. CORELLA sailed to Cherbourg and laid off the harbour entrance until the following morning and then tied up at the Transatlantic Quay at 0935 h 8 December to take on fresh water. Gale force winds prevented the planned departure on 9 December and some of CORELLA's personnel visited the German research vessel 'POSEIDON' and British submarine 'SEA LION' during the day.

CORELLA cast off at 1000 h 10 December and anchored in the outer harbour at Cherbourg in a 35 knot westerly gale for the remainder of the day. The winds increased to hurricane force (70 knots) during the night and, after the anchor cable parted at 0200 h 11 December, CORELLA went back to the quay in Cherbourg. The weather moderated slightly during the day and we attempted to pick up the lost cable and anchor by dragging between 0840 h and 1140 h 12 December, without success. A slight lull tempted us to carry out a water station in mid-Channel during the day but the heavy swell did not allow trawling to take place until the following day. 2 further hauls were completed in the vicinity of Poole on 13 December until strong winds prevented further fishing. A succession of intense depressions continued to appear and, with insufficient days remaining to complete it, the survey of the western channel was abandoned. CORELLA sailed east towards the Rye Bay area with the intention of completing the eastern channel survey off Boulogne and carrying out additional hauls near Rye Bay for ripe plaice but strong SW winds forced us to seek a lee in Margate Roads. Being without an anchor the vessel laid in Margate Roads from 1730 h 14 December to 0900 h 16 December and then worked the three stations in the southern North Sea during the day, completing the work at 1930 h. CORELLA then made for Corton Roads where she laid until the following morning and eventually docked at Lowestoft at 0815 h 17 December.

RESULTS

1. The 30 station groundfish survey of the eastern English Channel was almost completed, the station off Boulogne was unworkable because of the presence of drift nets and, finally, the heavy westerly weather at the end of the cruise. Due to the poor weather in the second half of the cruise, the planned groundfish survey of the western channel was abandoned.
2. No sediment samples were collected.
3. 38 ripe plaice ovaries from the eastern channel were preserved in Gilsans Fluid.
4. 13 boxes of mixed gadoids were collected and frozen for fish food.
5. A wide variety of species were deep frozen for the Fish Identification course.
6. 3 trawl hauls were completed in the southern North Sea for pre-recruit abundance estimation. One 0-group cod was caught in the haul near the Kentish Knock and 138 0-group whiting were caught at Sizewell.

R G Houghton
4 January 1980

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

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List
R G Houghton (4 copies)
C L Whiting
S Flatman
M White
R Cross

Table 1

Station	Mean Depth (m)	Total Catch (Kg/h)	"Industrial" fish (Kg/h)	Spurdogs (kg/h)	Catch as % "Industrial" catch by weight					% undersized in total catch by number		
					Norway (pout)	Haddock	Whiting	Herring	Sandeel	Mackerel	Haddock	Whiting
2	78	300	70	135	-	72	13	-	+	76	99	0
3	64	209	172	16	+	24	34	16		92	87	0
4	73	482	460	4	-	20	22	-	52	88	98	0
6	152	155	108	15	84	14	2	-		90	70	0
7	131	249	211	7	81	14	2	3		94	?	0
8	130	315	273	12	81	12	5	+		89	9	0
9	118	271	192	-	57	36	7	-		79	34	0
10	116	144	85	2	12	79	7	-		91	26	0
11	133	135	59	13	30	37	29	-		96	10	0
12	136	54	42	-	58	38	4	-		85	0	0
13	139	108	107	-	57	25	17	-		79	7	0
14	135	472	400	11	58	18	24	+		99	5	0
15	125	1403	87	1080	47	33	18	+		58	12	0
16	118	634	576	-	34	22	42	-		86	33	0
17	113	208	196	-	5	37	43	-		95	37	0
18	115	409	343	45	57	30	9	-		94	20	0
19	113	386	361	18	30	28	39	+		94	30	0
20	110	690	651	12	6	19	56	13		98	57	0
21	130	151	86	18	23	34	23	20		97	35	0
22	120	993	964	-	33	4	62	+		84	22	0
23	113	136	41	21	+	76	12	-		88	0	10
24	144	164	19	5	3	74	3	-	5	67	50	0
25	160	153	62	-	47	39	2	-	+	87	50	0
26	167	367	145	3	86	10	1	-		89	33	0
27	146	171	128	-	41	9	41	-		98	0	0
28	138	182	88	+	75	4	11	10		100	2	0
29	125	180	124	1	52	41	4	-		96	7	0
30	110	161	139	-	1	95	+	+		96	-	10
31	116	382	311	5	37	57	3	-	58	98	19	0
32	116	78	103	-	48	35	-	1	2	92	33	0
33	119	220	86	7	29	50	-	-	14	78	9	0

Table 1 contd.

Station	Mean Depth (m)	Total Catch (Kg/h)	"Industrial" fish (Kg/h)	Spurdogs (Kg/h)	Catch as % "Industrial" catch by weight						(% undersized in total catch by number)			
					Norway pout	Haddock	Whiting	Herring	Sandeel	Mackerel	Haddock	Whiting		
34	81	124	66	7	13	55	2	1			29	72	71	-
35	104	644	560	18	89	6	3	+	+		+	97	25	0
36	144	237	78	108	67	20	+	2			10	97	100	0
37	141	109	44	-	52	29	-	-			13	98	75	8
38	138	155	118	10	81	17	-	-				95	33	0
39	144	80	45	8	67	22	1	-				98	71	0
40	144	134	51	14	69	29	1	1				98	33	0
41	140	385	71	270	10	85	2	3				98	65	0
42	106	286	216	20	8	57	35	-				99	51	0
43	88	361	167	175	+	93	7	+				84	95	3
44	82	275	221	10	-	43	39	+				88	88	20
45	84	290	266	-	-	50	48	-	16+			94	99	0
46	87	220	112	67	1	90	9	-				37	79	0
47	95	124	83	9	21	76	2	-			+	76	94	22
48	95	34	23	-	-	98	1	+				68	99	0
49	83	120	73	15	2	93	3	-				9	99	0

Table 1 contd.

Station	Mean Depth (m)	Total Catch (Kg/h)	"Industrial" fish (Kg/h)	Spurdogs (Kg/h)	Catch as % "Industrial" catch by weight					(% undersized in total catch by number)			
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36	144	237	78	108	67	20	+	2		10	97	100	0
37	141	109	44	-	52	29	-	-		13	98	75	8
38	138	155	118	10	81	17	2	-			95	33	0
39	144	80	45	8	67	22	1	-			98	71	0
40	144	134	51	14	69	29	1	1			98	33	0
41	140	385	71	270	10	85	2	3			98	65	0
42	106	286	216	20	8	57	35	-			54	51	0
43	88	361	167	175	+	93	7	+			99	95	0
44	82	275	221	10	-	43	39	+	16+		84	88	3
45	84	290	266	-	-	50	48	-			88	99	20
46	87	220	112	67	1	90	9	-			94	79	0
47	95	124	83	9	21	76	2	-		+	37	94	0
48	95	34	23	-	-	98	1	-			76	99	22
49	83	120	73	15	2	93	3	-			68	99	0
											9	99	0