

REGISTRY

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

1971 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: R V CORELLA: CRUISE 15

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

STAFF: P R Winslade  
W G Parnell  
G T Thacker  
B H Holford  
P R Witthames

DURATION:

Left Lowestoft 1330 hours 27 September  
Arrived Lowestoft 1200 hours 10 October

LOCALITY:

Central North Sea

AIMS:

1. To carry out a tin tow net survey for herring larvae on the English side of the Central North Sea, as part of the ICES survey of the abundance and distribution of autumn-spawned herring larvae in the North Sea.
2. To make observations of bottom temperature and collect salinity samples in the larval survey area.
3. To obtain samples of spawning herring from the Silver Pits area.
4. If time permits, to collect samples of cod for Mr Bye for studies of the pineal gland.

NARRATIVE:

Herring samples had been obtained from the Longstone, Whitby and Scarborough spawning grounds on CORELLA, Cruise 14, and so on 28, 29 and 30 September the ship trawled for herring in the area of the Silver Pits. Some small samples were obtained and a few cod were also caught and preserved for Mr Bye. At 0900, 1 October CORELLA docked at Den Helder to return a bottom current meter to NIOZ and prepare gear for the tin tow net survey. The ship left at 1530 on the same day and began the survey on 2 October, finishing on 7 October. Herring larvae were only present in any quantity in the samples taken from the stations off Whitby and Flamborough Head and so two extra stations were added to cover a gap in the grid for that area. Salinity samples were collected and bottom temperatures recorded at 12 stations and a very pronounced thermocline of about 6-7 C and at a depth of about 30 metres was noted at the stations in the deep water between the East Coast and the Dogger Bank. Finally, on 8 and 9 October the ship carried out an echo survey for herring in the area of the Norfolk Banks and a cross to Lat. 4 E but very little trace was observed.

RESULTS:

1. All the aims of the cruise were completed.
2. Otoliths were taken for Mr Neill from a sample of long rough dabs.

3. A tumour carrying cod was preserved for Dr Shelton.
4. A sample of live plankton was collected for Mrs Hudson.
5. Gadoids and small flatfish were deep frozen for fish food.

P R Winslade  
Naturalist in Charge  
13 October 1971

Seen in draft: WC (Master)  
CS (Fishing Skipper)

Initialled: H A C

Distribution: Basic List  
Mr Winslade  
Mr Parnell  
Mr Thacker  
Mr Holford  
Mr Whitthames  
Mr Bye