

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

1972 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORELLA: CRUISE 15

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

STAFF

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P White (S C S)

DURATION AND LOCALITY: SOUTHERN NORTH SEA

Left Lowestoft 1500 h 16 October

Arrived Lowestoft 1100 h 27 October

All times are Greenwich Mean Time

AIM

To determine the reaction of plaice to a granton trawl by extending the series of experiments carried out on CORELLA 13 and 18 1971.

NARRATIVE

This cruise was the first of this years' series of joint sector scanner cruises with RV CLIONE. Both ships left Lowestoft at 1500 h, 16 October and CORELLA proceeded to IJmuiden to pick up a torroidal buoy on behalf of Hydrographic Section from the ship's agents.

Granton trawl attacks on acoustically tagged plaice started at 1200 h 17 October in the Brown Bank-Black Bank area. An overnight DRCP station had to be abandoned at 0130 h 18 October because of freshening winds and both ships dodged for the rest of the day. CORELLA called at IJmuiden in the evening for temporary repairs to the VHF Radio.

Trawling was carried out on the 19 October, but 20 October was again spent dodging because of NW gale force winds, so on 21 October both ships steamed to Southwold. Because of the restricted amount of ground suitable for working there, after 9 attacks both ships steamed overnight to the Kentish Knock.

Work was continued at the Kentish Knock from 23 to 26 October, although the two fish released on 26 October were not attacked as they were either on rough ground or off the bottom. Work ceased at 1415 h and CORELLA proceeded to the anchorage at Corton, collecting a live plankton sample near the Galloper lightvessel on the way.

RESULTS

1. 47 'attacks' with the trawl were made on 13 acoustically tagged plaice out of a total of 16 released. Three fish were never suitably positioned on the sea bed to be attacked. Ten were captured and three had to be abandoned.
2. Bathythermograph and water bottle samplings were made on the trawling grounds. Sea surface temperatures were 12.4°C to 13.7°C in the Black Bank area, 11.7°C at Southwold and 13.4°C at the Kentish Knock.
3. Fifty-five plaice were dissected and deep frozen for biochemical analysis by Mr Birkett.
4. Two live turbot for Dr A Jones and ten recaptured plaice, plus one plaice suitable for future tagging, were landed.
5. A plankton sample was collected for Mrs B Thompson.

I L Davies
30 October 1972

SEEN IN DRAFT

JEMB
CNS

INITIALLED

AJL

DISTRIBUTION

Basic List

Dr Greer Walker
Mr Margetts
Dr Arnold
Mr Bridger
Mr Griffiths
Mr Hood

I L Davies
D S Tungate
P Scholes
D Wright
P White