

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

1976 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORELLA: CRUISE 15

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

STAFF

F R Harden Jones
P Scholes
B H Holford
R J Turner
D Snowball (Fisheries Office, North Shields)

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1400 h 15 November
Arrived Lowestoft 0200 h 28 November

LOCALITY

Southern Bight North Sea

AIMS

1. To continue plaice migration studies using the paired tow technique (midwater trawl).
2. To look for periodicity in the occurrence of plaice in midwater on south-going tides.

NARRATIVE

CORELLA left Lowestoft at 1400 h 15 November and after anchoring at Southwold overnight steamed to the working area some 25 miles offshore in the line of the Knoll stream. Following a preliminary tow on a northerly tide, midwater hauls were made on each southerly tide from north (52.26N 02°23E) to south (52.06N 02°12E) along the line of the tidal streampaths as weather permitted. Conditions were good for the first part of the cruise and 12 tows were made on consecutive southerly tides without interruption. But a heavy northerly swell and strong winds stopped work on 22 November. CORELLA took advantage of the bad weather to return to Lowestoft to top up with fresh water and tied up at 2055 h the same evening; CORELLA left Lowestoft at 1018 h 23 November. The rest of the cruise was marred by bad weather and only 3 further tows could be made on southerly tides before the cruise was abandoned at 2300 h 27 November when the weather offered no prospects for further work. CORELLA returned to Lowestoft and tied up at 0200 h 28 November.

RESULTS

1. No paired hauls were made.
2. The number of plaice caught in midwater on southerly tides was 0, 2, 0, 1, 7, 3, 6, 6, 9, 2, 7 and 1 for the 12 consecutive tows made over the period 16-22 November; there was a new moon on 21 November. Subsequent hauls caught fewer fish (1 and 3 on 25 November, and 1 on 27 November). These results are not inconsistent with the hypothesis that there is a periodicity in the movement of plaice along the line of the Knoll stream.

3. Other activities

- (a) The position of a steep-sided deep pit (58 m) lying to the west of the Inner Gabbard, which was located during a plaice tracking cruise in 1972, was confirmed by echo survey. A second deep and uncharted pit in the line of the Knoll stream was found and briefly surveyed.
- (b) Stainless steel beer barrels, a liferaft, and lifejacket, believed to have been associated with the wreck of the coaster JEDERT, were recovered and landed at Lowestoft on 22 November.
- (c) Gadoids and sprats were collected and frozen as required by Fish Cultivation Unit.

F R Harden Jones

30 November 1976

SEEN IN DRAFT JEMB
 ETB

INITIALLED AJL

DISTRIBUTION

Basic list
F R Harden Jones
P Scholes
B H Holford
R J Turner
D Snowball