

jh

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

1978 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORELLA: CRUISE 15

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

STAFF

P J Warren  
E Edwards  
P M Connor  
B Mumford  
S R J Lovewell  
C Gough (Conwy)

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 0830 h 14 November  
Arrived Lowestoft 0600 h 27 November

LOCALITY

English northeast coast

AIMS

1. To survey Nephrops distribution and abundance off the northeast coast
2. To tag and release 1500 inshore Nephrops.
3. To check Nephrops escape through various parts of the trawl.
4. To compare size of Nephrops from long and short hauls.
5. To examine all cod stomachs for Nephrops prey.
6. To trawl for Nephrops in Silver Pits/Botney Gut.

NARRATIVE

CORELLA left Lowestoft on the morning tide of 14 November and arrived off the R Tyne at dawn the following morning to find SW winds gusting to 65 knots. The ship dodged that day and anchored overnight close to Sunderland. Trawling began 16 November with the collection of Nephrops for tagging. Aim 2 was completed to satisfaction by 19 November and the stock survey was begun the same day. On the evening of 20 November the ship docked at Sunderland to top up fresh water and exchange Dr Edwards for Mr Connor. As the tides eased towards neaps, 33 trawl stations were worked for the loss of one trawl and Aim 1 was completed by 24 November. Cod of all sizes were examined for Nephrops prey (Aim 5). Commercial landings of sprats began at North Shields during this week, and on request from Lowestoft an echo sounder survey of the main area of interest was carried out in darkness 23 November.

Small mesh covers were fitted to a new trawl and 5 hauls were made off Hartlepool to check Nephrops escape through wing, belly and codend meshes (Aim 3).

While work progressed, samples were collected of herring (Wood Lt.), assorted decapods (Jamieson Lt.), live plaice (Scholes Lt.), live decapods (Lockwood Lt.), mixed small gadoids (Blacker Lt.), queens (Pickett, B'ham.) and a variety of fish and shellfish (ABP2, Burnham).

On the evening of 25 November, the ship steamed to Silver Pits/Botney Gut to trawl for Nephrops. A substantial sample was obtained in daylight 26 November but weather deteriorated and CORELLA docked at Lowestoft 0600 h 27 November.

P Warren  
28 November 1978

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

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List  
P J Warren  
E Edwards  
P M Connor  
B Mumford  
S R J Lovewell  
C Gough (Conwy)

