

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

1976 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORELLA: CRUISE 16

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

STAFF

M Greer Walker  
P Scholes  
B Knights  
H Edge (Grimsby)

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 0930 h 7 December  
Arrived Lowestoft 0500 h 17 December  
All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY

Southern North Sea

AIMS

1. To fish in midwater for migrating plaice in a line south of Smith's Knoll in order to elucidate any variations in numbers of fish with time.
2. To take water samples from a pit in position 52°10.2'N and 2°15.0'E.
3. To collect anchovies and plaice for histological analysis.
4. To return live plaice, sole, spurdogs and various other species to the laboratory.

NARRATIVE

CORELLA sailed at 0930 h 7 December having been delayed overnight by bad weather. After steaming to the working area south of Smith's Knoll it became apparent that conditions were unsuitable for trawling and CORELLA returned to anchor off Gorleston. On 8 December CORELLA returned to the working area and although conditions were still unsuitable for trawling a survey was made of the pit (Aim 2). In worsening weather CORELLA moved towards Southwold and two hauls were made inshore for live fish for the laboratory. The weather moderated sufficiently on 9 December to begin the primary aim. Midwater trawling on southerly tides continued until the end of the cruise as weather permitted with one exception. CORELLA returned to Lowestoft on 13 December between 1130 h and 2330 h to land live fish, repair the headline transducer winch and ship's radio and take on water. CORELLA docked at 0500 h 17 December.

RESULTS

1. 13 hauls were made on southerly tides and a single haul on a northerly tide between 52°22'N 02°24'E and 52°09'N 2°15'E.

Tide (northerly or southerly)	Day or night	Plaice catch
S	D	3
S	N	8
S	D	5
S	N	8
S	D	5
S	N	7
S	D	1
S	N	5
S	D	0
S	N	2
S	D	0
N	N	1
S	N	0
S	D/N	3

2. The pit at 52°10.2'N and 2°15.0'E was surveyed and a few water samples were taken.
3. Anchovies and plaice were collected for histological analysis.
4. Live plaice, spurdogs, dabs, sole and various other species were returned to the laboratory for experimental purposes.
5. A plankton sample was collected for Dr Dodge (London University).
6. Whiting and sprats were deep frozen for the Fish Cultivation Unit.

M Greer Walker

21 December 1976

SEEN IN DRAFT J E W Balfour  
E T Bridge

INITIALLED AJL

DISTRIBUTION

Basic list  
M Greer Walker  
P Scholes  
B Knights  
H Edge