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

1977 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORELLA: CRUISE 16

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

STAFF

E Edwards
P J Warren
P Connor
P More (Grimsby)
C Gough (Conwy)

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1000 h, 1 November
Arrived Lowestoft 0545 h, 8 November
All times are Greenwich Mean Time.

LOCALITY

North Sea

AIMS

This was the second part of Cruise 15, the aims being to complete those not achieved during the period 18-28 October.

1. To tag and release offshore a further 5 000 large Nephrops.
2. To compare size frequency of Nephrops and bycatch taken in $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 3 hour tows.
3. To examine all cod stomachs for Nephrops.
4. Using patch covers to check Nephrops escape through various parts of the trawl.
5. To collect gadoid data for the inshore fish survey.
6. Selected fish samples for metal monitoring MEP2, BURNHAM.

NARRATIVE

The vessel did not sail at 1000 h, 31 October as planned due to a severe SW gale. Sailing took place at 1000 h, 1 November and the vessel spent the next 20 hours steaming to the Nephrops fishing grounds off the Tyne.

The first trawl station began at 0900 h, 2 November but after 1 hour tow, the net was badly torn and it took 6 hours to repair. Two trawl stations were completed during the remainder of the day and the catch recorded and the Nephrops selected and tagged.

On 3 November the gear was shot at dawn and towed for 1 hour. After sorting the catch and tagging the selected Nephrops the vessel had to dodge and shelter closer inshore due to a SW gale.

No fishing was possible on 4 November due to strong winds.

Fishing continued on 5 and 6 November approximately 25 miles NE of the Tyne, and 9 trawl stations were completed.

It was planned to continue fishing on Monday, 7 November, but a SW gale rose and it was decided to slowly steam to Lowestoft where the vessel arrived at 0545 h, 8 November.

RESULTS

Despite the persistent gales it was possible to achieve some results:

1. A total of 1 116 selected Nephrops were each marked with a yellow claw tag and released on the offshore release grounds (approximately 25 miles NE of Tyne).
2. Records of the bycatch were taken at each station and samples of gadoids were measured and otolithed for Mr Parnell.
3. All cod taken were examined for stomach contents.
4. Samples of cod, herring, whiting and haddock were collected for MEP2 BURNHAM.

It was not possible to complete aims 2 and 4, due to the inclement weather conditions.

E Edwards
24 November 1977

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INITIALLED: AJL

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Basic list+
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