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

1974 Research Vessel Programme

REPORT: R V CORELLA: CRUISE 17

(Provisional: Not to be quoted without reference to the author)

STAFF: F R Harden Jones
T Wyatt
C Walker
L Emerson

DURATION:
Left Lowestoft 1800 h 9 December
Arrived Lowestoft 1000 h 18 December
All times GMT

LOCALITY:
Southern Bight

AIMS:

To continue, with R V CLIONE, the studies on migrating plaice; to collect further data on the relation between the catch of plaice taken by a midwater trawl and tidal direction; and to determine the areas where the midwater catches of plaice are greatest on a south-going tide.

NARRATIVE:

CORELLA left Lowestoft at 1800 h 9 December and spent the night at anchor in Gorleston Roads. The following day 30 knot westerly winds restricted mid-water fishing to the 02°00'E line and a north-going and south-going haul were completed off Lowestoft before CORELLA had to take shelter off Southwold that evening. CORELLA stayed there until 0830 12 December when an improvement in the weather allowed us to work out to 02° 10'E (West Deep Water). But only a northerly haul was completed before CORELLA had to shelter in Gorleston Roads. Three local lifeboats answered distress calls on the night of 12/13 and the inshore vessel NIKKI, working from Lowestoft, was lost off Sea Palling. The weather slowly moderated and at 1600 h 13 December conditions had improved sufficiently for work to continue. From 13-16 December CORELLA, working with CLIONE, fished along the line of the West Deep Water from just south of the Hearty Knoll to the North Falls. Strong winds stopped work on the morning of 16 December and CORELLA again took shelter off Southwold. During a lull on the morning of 17 December a sutherly tow was made at 2°00'E off Southwold which was successfully completed in a force 7. But as the conditions were becoming unworkable, and there was no prospect of an early improvement, CORELLA returned to anchor in Gorleston Roads and entered Lowestoft at 1000 h 18 December.

RESULTS

1 The catch of plaice taken by a midwater trawl in relation to the tide. On this Cruise 64 plaice were caught in midwater on 13 tows; 48 of these plaice were taken on south-going tides and 16 on north-going tides. When these results are added to those obtained on the previous cruise, the numbers taken on the south-going and north-going tides are 67 and 18 respectively, the catch rates per hours' fishing being 1.67 and 0.46.

2 Areas of abundance. Catches were highest along the line of the West Deep Water, between 2°05'E and 2°10'E. The highest catch (29 plaice for a 3 h tow) was made over the deep water to the east of the Outer Gabbard - Galloper Lightvessels. The plaice were in maturation stages III and IV, and the larger fish were more numerous in the south.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Dinoflagellate samples were collected for Dr Dodge.

F R Harden Jones
20 December 1974

SEEN IN DRAFT: J E B (Master)
E T B (Fishing Skipper)

INITIALIED: A J L

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List

Dr Harden Jones
Mr Wyatt
Mr Walker
Mr Emerson