

Library

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

1975 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORELLA: CRUISE 17

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

STAFF

F R Harden Jones  
P J Witthames  
S Stevens  
R Goulder (DIs Office, Lowestoft)

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1736 h 12 November

Arrived Lowestoft 0900 h 21 November

All times are Greenwich Mean Time.

LOCALITY

Southern Bight.

AIMS

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

NARRATIVE

Both ships left Lowestoft at 1736 h 12 November and started work in the Smiths Knoll area early the following morning; CLIONE fished between the banks while CORELLA fished to the south and east. CORELLA completed 4 pairs of tows before bad weather stopped work at 1930 h 15 November. Both ships took shelter in Gorleston Roads. Conditions were so bad by the morning of 17 November that both ships entered Lowestoft harbour, CORELLA berthing at 0900 h. The weather showed some improvement on 18 November and both ships left Lowestoft at 2000 h and started work in the line of the Knoll stream early the following morning. Work continued between Smiths Knoll and the Galloper until northerly winds, force 8/9, again forced both ships to shelter in Gorleston Roads in the early evening of 20 November. CORELLA returned to Lowestoft the following morning, berthing at 0900 h: CLIONE remained at sea to continue with her programme.

RESULTS

1. CORELLA completed 6 pairs of midwater tows with the 800 Engel trawl, and the southerly haul of a 7th pair. The results were similar to those obtained in 1974 in that

1. plaice were present in the line of the Knoll stream from 02°05'E-02°15'E;
2. although few plaice were caught, 15 mature fish were caught on southerly tides and only 1 immature fish on northerly tides.

When the fish caught on this cruise are added to the results obtained in 1974, the following picture emerges:

	Tide			
	Southerly (S)		Northerly (N)	
	h	catch	h	catch
CORELLA 16/74	21	22	21	2
CORELLA 17/74	19	49	18	16
CLIONE 18/74	12	36	13	11
CORELLA 17/75	21	15	18	1
Totals	73	122	70	30
Catch/h	1.671		0.429	
Catch rates S:N	3.9:1			

The mature fish caught on this cruise were in maturation stages III to IV. Catches were lower than in previous cruises, but this cruise was a week earlier than CORELLA 16/74: the spawning migration might not be fully under way yet.

2. Other fish taken in midwater included a few cod, whiting (up to 2 baskets), dogfish (spur and nurse), a silver eel (Anguilla anguilla), scad, mackerel, sprats and some anchovies, dabs and, occasionally, soles. In one haul 26 herring were caught.

F R Harden Jones

24 November 1975

SEEN IN DRAFT    JEWB  
                  ETB

INITIALLED        AJL

DISTRIBUTION

Basic list  
F R Harden Jones  
P J Witthames  
S Stevens  
R Goulder