

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

1972 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORELLA: CRUISE 18

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

STAFF

B C Mumford  
R F Lincoln  
M Htun Han (Burma) until 11.12.72

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 0920 h 5 December  
Arrived Lowestoft 1930 h 19 December

LOCALITY

Southern North Sea

AIMS

1. To determine the reactions of plaice to a Granton trawl by extending the series of experiments carried out on Cruises CORELLA 13 & 18 1971 and 15, 16 & 17 1972.
2. Collection of 24 mature plaice for hatchery work and plaice for future sector scanning trips.

NARRATIVE

With the immediate object of recovering JONSIS buoys B & C CORELLA sailed at 0920 h 5 December in a strong SW gale and later the same day sought shelter in the River Humber. With a forecast of moderating winds CORELLA left the River Humber at 0045 h 8 December and steamed to the position of JONSIS B where dragging commenced at 0830 h. After dragging for 2½ hours in this position determined by Decca coordinates on the English Chain an alternative set of coordinates provided by the Laboratory but using the N. British Chain were plotted. This position was 1.75 miles distant from the first position. At 1540 h contact was made with the groundwire and the remains of the rig were recovered 500 yds W. of the given position. No meters were recovered and the condition of the meter wire just above a remaining damaged meter frame suggested that this end of the rig had been trawled over. The surface torroid wire had been cut below the bridles.

After an overnight steam JONSIS C buoy was found at 0700 h 9 December and recovered intact by 0930 h after which CORELLA steamed to the area of the Pit Buoys where 26 mature plaice were obtained for Dr Purdom.

CORELLA joined CLIONE east of Smith's Knoll at 1300 h 10 December and made two unsuccessful attacks on an acoustic tagged plaice before a fault was found in the azimuth training gear on the Sector Scanner. Two short hauls were made near Smith's Knoll Light Vessel which produced a further 16 mature plaice before steaming towards Great Yarmouth.

CORELLA entered Great Yarmouth at 1315 h 11 December and sailed again at 1600 h having landed 42 plaice and the hydrographic buoy gear.

Strong gales prevented any further work until 15 December when CORELLA was joined by CLIONE east of Smith's Knoll. Two fish were released by CLIONE but neither were suitable for attack by CORELLA's trawl.

During the period 16-19 December working in the Texel area 22 attacks were made on 9 plaice with 5 recaptures. A further 40 mature plaice were obtained for the laboratory stock from the West Hole, Tea Kettle Hole area on the night of 16 December.

Joint ship work ceased at 1100 h 19 December and CORELLA steamed to Lowestoft arriving at 1930 h.

#### RESULTS

1. The complete rig of JONSIS C and the remains of JONSIS B were recovered.
2. 24 attacks were made on 11 tagged plaice with 5 recaptures.
3. 82 live plaice were landed for laboratory stock.
4. A sample of live plankton was obtained off the Dutch coast for copepod culture.

B C Mumford  
28 December 1972

#### SEEN IN DRAFT

W Craig (Master)

C Snowling (Skipper)

INITIALLED: AJL

#### DISTRIBUTION

Basic List

B C Mumford

R F Lincoln

M Htun Han

Dr Harden Jones