

MISS HOWARD

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

1970 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: R V CORELLA: CRUISE 2 (a)

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

STAFF

G C Bolster
B H Holford
G J Howlett

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1015 hours 6 February.

Arrived Plymouth 1900 hours 15 February.

LOCALITY

Western English Channel.

AIMS

1. Echo survey in area bounded by Portland-Alderney in the east to Lands End-Ushant in the west.
2. Mid-water and bottom trawling south of the Eddystone.
3. Temperature readings in relation to schooling of pelagic fish.
4. Blood sampling of pelagic fish for serological studies.

NARRATIVE

A succession of prolonged gales ranging in force from 8 to 11, and coming mainly from between SW and NE limited the progress of this cruise.

CORELLA left Lowestoft at 1015 hours, 6 February, and proceeded to a position off Cherburg where an echo-survey towards Portland was started at 0900 hours on the following day. By 1300 hours the wind had increased to gale force 8 from the west. We altered course therefore and proceeded at reduced speed to seek shelter in Torbay, where we anchored at 2100 hours. Because of the severe weather we remained there until 1000 hours on 10 February. Then, with a forecast of wind W 6-8, veering NW 5, having received a communication from the laboratory that heavy traces were reported to be in Mount's Bay, and knowing that we would have shelter from the land, both when there and while proceeding there, we weighed anchor and arrived at Mount's Bay at 2000 hours. A close echo survey in the area confirmed the report of there being good traces, and the Engel trawl when shot on one such trace produced a basket of pilchards, half a basket of mackerel and some sprats.

Very few good traces were recorded when we resumed the echo survey in Mount's Bay, and so, with better weather forecasts, the echo survey (Aim 1) was started, working from west to east. This began at the Wolf Rock at 0500 hours, 11 February, and continued until 0020 hours on the 12th, when, while off Dodman Point - due to a wave depression which had not been forecast - we were forced to dodge against winds from NW of forces 8-10 until we found shelter by anchoring in Falmouth Bay at 2015 hours.

On 13 February we found that from our place at anchor it was not possible to receive R/T communication from Land's End. We proceeded to the eastward against a strong easterly wind and eventually, when clear of the land, made radio contact with the laboratory at 1600 hours. At 1615 hours a forecast of NE 7-9 was given, so we proceeded to Plymouth and anchored at 2145 hours.

The weather improved on 14 February. We left Plymouth at 2200 hours and carried out an echo survey in which good traces were found between 6 and 9 miles SW of the Eddystone. When the survey was completed we returned to this area where, having found good traces again, we commenced line fishing with feathers for mackerel at 0900 hours, 15 February. Good fishing enabled our taking blood samples from 150 mackerel.

At 1630 hours, the condition of the fourth engineer, who had a throat infection, became acute. We proceeded to Plymouth where we were met by the doctor on our arrival at 1900 hours.

RESULTS

Aim 1. Part of the echo survey only was achieved. This was in the area Land's End/Wolf Rock to Lizard. Good traces were recorded (a) in Mount's Bay, 6 m SSE of Mousehole Island, (b) between 13 and 28 miles S of the Lizard, and (c) between 6-9 miles SW of the Eddystone.

Aim 2. Pilchards and mackerel were caught in Mount's Bay.

Aim 4. Blood samples were taken from 150 feather-caught mackerel off the Eddystone.

G C Bolster

23 February 1970

SEEN IN DRAFT: AE (Master)

INITIALED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION

Basic List

B H Holford
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