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

1981 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORELLA: CRUISE 3

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

STAFF:

A R Folkard	
M G Norton	17-19 February
E G Shreeve	17-19 February
M S Rolfe	17-19 February
R Nunny	17-19 February
M R Thomas	19-27 February
R J Chapman	19-27 February
S Leigh-Pearson	19-27 February

DURATION:

Left Yarmouth 1800 h, 17 February

Arrived Lowestoft 0030 h, 27 February

All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY:

Thames Estuary, Tyne

AIMS:

1. To carry out a side scan sonar survey of the Roughs Tower dumping site.
2. To carry out a water quality survey over the Tyne sewage sludge dump site and surrounding area.
3. To work three tidal anchor stations between the mouth of the River Tyne and the dump site.

NARRATIVE

CORELLA sailed from Yarmouth at 1800 h, 17 February. After clearing the Hewitt Channel the side scan sonar was deployed to allow adjustments to be made for maximum performance of the gear. One small fault was located and rectified by midnight and the ship then steamed slowly to the Roughs Tower area which was reached by 0700 h, 18 February. The survey was completed by 1800 h in a freshening wind. It had been hoped that a small survey could be made in an area 2 miles SE of Orfordness on the return steam to Lowestoft but wind conditions were such that this had to be abandoned. CORELLA then steamed slowly overnight and docked in Lowestoft at 0815 h, 19 February when the Burnham staff disembarked and the side scan sonar gear was unloaded.

Staff from Lowestoft were embarked and CORELLA sailed again at 1040 h, 19 February and arrived off the Tyne after breakfast the next morning and then dodged throughout the day. During this time all the gear was made ready and by the end of the day the weather had moderated sufficiently to test the operation of the shallow water CTD system. The outer half of the Tyne grid was commenced at 0919 h, 21 February and completed by 2006 h. The inner half of the grid was begun at 0920 h, 22 February and completed by 1400 h - because of the strong SE wind only

surface observations were made and 2 inshore stations off Sunderland and Blyth were omitted. CORELLA then dodged offshore for the rest of the day and the next day until the swell had moderated sufficiently to allow anchoring at the offshore anchor station at 0715 h, 24 February. This anchor station was completed by 2200 h. The inshore anchor station was begun at 0815 h, 25 February. During the day strengthening S-SE winds were forecast and it was doubtful whether the Souther Point anchor station could be worked on the one remaining work day and so it was decided to extend the work at the inshore working station by some hours. At 2230 h the ship began to drag her anchor in a strengthening southerly wind and the station then had to be abandoned. At this stage it was very doubtful that the remaining anchor station could be worked in the light of strengthening winds for the next day and gear was stowed and CORELLA began steaming for Lowestoft. The ship docked at Lowestoft at 0030 h, 27 February.

RESULTS

The side scan sonar worked well and the records have been returned to Burnham-on-Crouch for analysis. The results for the Tyne dumping ground have yet to be worked up. The Guildline shallow water CTD system worked extremely well and should prove an excellent instrument for this type of work. The NBA DRCM also proved its worth and apart from one blown fuse during the cruise worked extremely well. The side scan sonar and the CTD were deployed from the A-frame on the new gantry structure and this presented no problems.

A R Folkard
5 March 1981

SEEN IN DRAFT: GRO
RCN

INITIALLED: HWH

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +
A R Folkard
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