

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

1970 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: R V ERNEST HOLT: CRUISE 5

STAFF: B W Jones  
K Brander  
S Flatman  
D J Peek  
R V Perkins

DURATION:

27 May - 10 June

LOCALITY:

West of Scotland

AIMS:

1. Cod tagging and cod biology in the West of Scotland area.
2. To investigate the distribution of fish on Faroe Bank (only if time permits).
3. Collect cod blood samples for immunogenetic studies.
4. Any small halibut caught will be brought back alive for Dr Purdom.

NARRATIVE

The ship sailed from Grimsby on the midnight tide of 27/28 May and sailed to Northwest Scotland. There was time for a few trawl hauls near Sulisker Bank before the ship called at Sornoway where Mr Brander joined the ship. Oil and water were taken and the ship headed south to the North Channel of the Irish Sea. For the whole of the working part of the cruise the ship searched, largely unsuccessfully, for cod. A further call at Sornoway for more water became necessary because of loss due to leaking boiler tubes. ERNEST HOLT docked at Grimsby on the morning of 10 June.

RESULTS

1. 255 cod were tagged. Cod in significant numbers were caught in only two hauls in a small area off Cape Wrath. These hauls were separated by two days in time. On both occasions further hauls in the same position failed to yield further fish. Virtually all cod taken during the cruise were mature fish.
2. Owing to slow progress in Aim 1, the programme for Faroe Bank was cancelled.
3. 159 cod blood samples were obtained, all of these being from a single haul. Otoliths were taken from all these fish.
4. No halibut sufficiently small for Dr Purdom's requirements were caught.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. 32 cod heads were collected for pineal histology studies.
2. Specimens of a range of fish species were collected for Dr Greer Walker's studies of fish musculature.
3. Samples of blue whiting, Norway pout, sandeels and young horse mackerel were preserved.
4. Otolith or spine samples were taken for cod, hake, coalfish and spurdogs.

B W Jones  
11. 6. 70

Seen in draft: P C B (Master)  
F W B (Fishing Skipper)

Initialled: A J L

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List

Mr B Jones  
Mr Brander  
Mr Flatman  
Mr Peek  
Mr Perkins  
Mr Bye  
Dr Purdon  
Dr Jamieson  
Mr Macer  
Mr Winslade  
Dr Greer Walker