

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

1971 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV TELLINA: CRUISE 1

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

STAFF

P O Johnson  
T W Boon

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 0900 hours, 12 January

Returned Lowestoft 1625 hours, 22 January

All times are British Standard Time

LOCALITY

Thames Estuary

AIMS

1. To carry out an echo- and fishing survey for sprat shoals along the Suffolk coast and within the Thames Estuary and its approaches.
2. To make temperature and salinity observations over the survey area.

NARRATIVE

TELLINA sailed from Lowestoft at 0900 hours, 12 January, and proceeded to the Thames area to commence an echo- and fishing survey for sprat shoals. Very thick fog prevailed over the first few days of the survey and this made working conditions difficult, but with the assistance of radar work was able to proceed. This fog was cleared by strong winds on 16 January, but these also prevented work on that day. The survey was able to continue on 17 and 18 January, by which time most of the Thames area between Orfordness and North Foreland had been effectively covered.

A period of south-easterly gales then followed, which caused complete cessation of work between 19-21 January, the vessel then remaining in Sheerness harbour. TELLINA was able to return to Lowestoft on 22 January, leaving Sheerness at 0715 hours and reaching Lowestoft at 1625 hours making a fairly good passage in a heavy easterly swell.

RESULTS

1. The echo-survey showed that pelagic shoals were generally very scarce indeed and no economically exploitable concentrations were found. Fishing with a mid-water trawl in the best patches only yielded around 2 baskets for an hour tow. There was also a considerable admixture of spring spawning herring caught with the sprats and a large sample of these was left at Felixstowe for collection by the laboratory.

The sprats showed a considerable overall range in length (4-17 cm) and the modal lengths varied considerably between the different localities sampled. Samples of sprats and smaller herring were preserved in alcohol for further examination.

2. A total of 48 hydrographic stations for surface temperatures and salinities were also carried out.

P O Johnson  
22.1.71

SEEN IN DRAFT: W Burroughs

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION

Basic List

Dr Johnson  
Mr Boon