

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

1976 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV TELLINA: CRUISE 1

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

STAFF

P J Warren, NIC (Part-time)
S R J Lovewell
P Roberts (Student)

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 0900 h 6 January 1976
Terminated North Shields 19 January 1976.

LOCALITY

North-east coast; Farn Deeps.

AIMS

1. To fish 50 to 70 mm unimesh 'prawn' trawls alternately, and to count and measure Nephrops taken in
 - (a) each trawl cod-end,
 - (b) a fine mesh cover attached to the belly of each trawl.
2. To examine the stomach contents of cod for Nephrops, and to measure predator and prey.
3. To note fish by-catch by volume and by species.

NARRATIVE

RV TELLINA sailed at 0900 h 6 January and reached North Shields at midday 7 January. Staff joined the ship at 2000 h. Work was not able to get underway until 9/10 due to gale-force winds and the programme was repeatedly interrupted by the weather conditions.

During the five days that the ship was able to trawl 16 stations were completed enabling a substantial contribution to each aim of the programme. The ship sailed for Lowestoft at 0930 h 19 January.

RESULTS

1. A total of 12 one-hour tows were completed using a 50 and a 70 mm 'prawn' trawl on alternate days. In addition 4 one-hour tows were undertaken using an 80 ft modified 'Gulf trawl'.
 - (a) A total of 20 056 Nephrops were caught in the cod-end, of which 4 613 were sexed and measured.
 - (i) 50 mm 'prawn' trawl: 6 stations completed, 13 802 Nephrops caught
 - (ii) 70 mm 'prawn' trawl: 6 stations completed, 4 613 Nephrops caught
 - (iii) 80 ft 'Gulf' trawl: 4 stations completed, 1 614 Nephrops caught.

The 70 mm 'prawn' trawl did not fish as well as expected. This was found to be due to the ground rope being longer than the fishing line.

- (b) Nothing was caught in the belly cover of both the 50 and 70 mm 'prawn' trawl. The 80 ft 'Gulf' trawl was fitted with a cod-end cover, the contents of which were mainly small fish.
2. Cod were not very abundant, but all those caught were examined for stomach contents and Nephrops prey were measured and sexed.
 3. The volume of by-catch (in baskets) and the total numbers of small fish taken by trawling permitted a calculation of fish numbers per basket for each trawl. Results were:

	<u>Baskets (n)</u>	<u>Small fish/basket</u>
(i) 50 mm 'prawn' trawl	10.5	377
(ii) 70 mm 'prawn' trawl	4.7	570
(iii) 80 ft 'Gulf' trawl	1.4	497

P J Warren

20 February 1976

SEEN IN DRAFT A Pearson

INITIALLED AJL

DISTRIBUTION

Basic list
P J Warren
S R J Lovewell
P Roberts