

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

1971 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV TELLINA: CRUISE 2

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

STAFF

M S Rolfe
P M Connor (until 9 February)
G D Pickett (after 9 February)

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1000 hours 27 January

Took shelter at Felixstowe 1700 hours 27 January-2330 hours 29 January

Arrived Newhaven 1530 hours 30 January

All times are British Standard Time

LOCALITY

English Channel: Eastern End

AIMS

To determine the distribution, abundance and condition of (a) scallops (Pecten maximus) and (b) queens (Chlamys opercularis) in the Eastern End of the English Channel.

NARRATIVE

After sheltering from bad weather for two days at Felixstowe, TELLINA arrived at Newhaven on 30 January where Messrs Rolfe and Connor joined her. The 31 January was taken up with preparatory work. Dredging was possible on seven days (February 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 11) during a fine spell of weather at the beginning of February, but a period of gales, commencing on 12 February, restricted further work to a few hours on 16 February.

Mr Pickett replaced Mr Connor after the day's work on 9 February.

After a poor forecast, Messrs Rolfe and Pickett left TELLINA at 1330 hours 18 February and returned to Burnham-on-Crouch. On 19 February, the crew came ashore at 0830 hours and returned to Lowestoft overland while the TELLINA was left moored at Newhaven, with a watchman on board, in readiness for the next cruise.

RESULTS

- (a) Escallops: 59 hauls mostly of 30 minutes duration were made with a 5' Baird sledge dredge over an area extending from 15 miles south of Worthing to 13 miles south south east of Hastings.

The only grounds yielding densities worthy of commercial exploitation were located 12 miles south by west to 17 miles south west of Newhaven breakwater in 32-35 fathoms of water. The 12 hauls made in this area yielded an average of 38 escallops per 30 minute haul (maximum 56).

Much of the ground covered during the survey was stony and on several occasions gear damage was sustained.

Most of the escallops taken were fast growing and the annual rings clearly visible. Of a representative sample measured, 83% were over 5" (127 mm) in length and 41% over 5½" (139 mm) in length, 52% were of the 1964 year class.

A meat yield estimation was made at Brighton Technical College.

- (b) Queens: No special hauls were made for queens and very few were taken during the hauls for escallops.

M S Rolfe

23 February 1971

SEEN IN DRAFT WB

INITIALLED AJL

DISTRIBUTION

Basic list

M S Rolfe

P M Connor

G D Pickett