

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

1973 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: R V TELLINA: CRUISE 3

STAFF: M S Rolfe            )  
      R R Minhea         ) Until 14 February  
  
      P M Connor         )  
      P A Hardiman       ) From 14 February

DURATION: Left Lowestoft 0900h 6 February  
          Arrived Lowestoft 1630h 22 February

LOCALITY: Thames Estuary

AIMS:

1. To collect samples of various fish species, both young and adult stages, for  
(a) chemical analysis (b) examination of the gut contents for major food organisms.
2. To collect specific benthic species for chemical analysis.
3. To take sediment samples in specific areas for chemical analysis.

NARRATIVE:

TELLINA left Lowestoft at 0900h 6 February and arrived at Ipswich at 1500h on the same day. Messrs Rolfe and Minhea went aboard at 1630h. On 9 February four trawling stations were worked in the vicinity of the Barrow Deep dumping ground and also near the Heaps Buoy in East Swin, but on 7, 8, 10-14 February TELLINA was weather bound at Ipswich by storm force winds. At 0030h 15 February Messrs Hardiman and Connor joined TELLINA, Messrs Rolfe and Minhea having already returned to Burnham on 12 February to await an improvement in the weather. On 15 and 16 February 6 conical dredge and 5 Agassiz trawl stations were worked in the Barrow Deep and Middle Deep, 17 February was lost taking on water and provisions. Between 18 and 21 February a further 70 conical dredge and one Agassiz trawl stations were worked in the same areas. Mr Connor travelled to Burnham on 21 February to collect insulated boxes for the collected samples and returned to Ipswich the following morning, but because of deteriorating weather, which was too poor to work in, TELLINA left Ipswich at 0930h 22 February, and Messrs Connor and Hardiman returned to Burnham. TELLINA berthed at Lowestoft at 1630h 22 February.

RESULTS:

Two main areas were worked (a) in the vicinity of the Barrow Deep dumping ground and (b) in the Middle Deep where moderate numbers of Abra alba had been recorded on an earlier cruise.

The 4 one hour trawl hauls yielded poor catches, consisting chiefly of cod, whiting, pout, plaice, dabs and sole, but sufficient specimens for chemical analysis and examination of gut contents were obtained.

From the 80 conical dredge and 6 Agassiz trawl hauls made, the benthos was separated into species (as far as possible). Half the animals were deep frozen on arrival at Ipswich (at Public Health Laboratory) and the remainder put in aerated seawater for 24 hrs before deep freezing to clear the guts of sediment.

INITIALLED: WB

M S Rolfe  
22 March 1973

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List            R R Minhea (Rumania)  
M S Rolfe            P M Connor  
P A Hardiman