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

1973 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV TELLINA: CRUISE 4

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

STAFF

C L Whiting
R Tucker

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1000 h, 5 March

Arrived Lowestoft 2400 h, 22 March

LOCALITY

Eastern English Channel

AIM

To tag soles in the Eastern English Channel.

NARRATIVE

TELLINA sailed from Lowestoft at 1000 h, 5 March and docked at Newhaven at 1100 h, 6 March. Fishing commenced on 7 March and continued on a daily basis until 11 March on grounds 16 miles SW of Newhaven, and 6 miles SSW of Newhaven. TELLINA laid in Newhaven on 12 March while two badly damaged trawls were repaired.

Fishing continued on 13 March on new grounds 11 miles SSW of Newhaven, but catch rates of soles were poor, and on 14 March TELLINA again fished grounds 6 miles SSW of Newhaven. Unfortunately two trawls were again badly damaged in only three hauls and TELLINA steamed for Newhaven where the rest of the day was spent mending.

An attempt was made on 15 March to steam to the offshore grounds, but worsening weather conditions made this impossible. TELLINA steamed inshore and fishing commenced 4 miles South of Brighton. No soles were caught. TELLINA laid weatherbound in Newhaven on 16 March.

A full day's fishing on the offshore grounds produced very few soles on 17 March and grounds outside the Royal Sovereign were fished on 18 March and 20 March. Sole catches here were also very poor. Fishing on grounds 8 miles SW by W of Newhaven on 21 March produced better results. TELLINA sailed from Newhaven at 0600 h, 22 March to fish these same grounds, but in view of a deteriorating weather forecast it was decided to steam for Lowestoft where TELLINA docked at 2400 h, 22 March.

RESULTS

Sole catches were poor throughout the cruise - both daylight and dark fishing. The best haul being 23 soles for a 1 hour tow 16 miles SW of Newhaven.

Soles were tagged with either small orange antifoul plastic flags or medium

petersen discs and a breakdown of the number of soles tagged is given below.

<u>Ground</u>	<u>Flags</u>	<u>Petersen Discs</u>
16 miles SW of Newhaven	58	19
6 miles SSW of Newhaven	74	38
11 miles SSW of Newhaven	26	Nil
8 miles SW x W of Newhaven	35	13
5 miles ESE of Royal Sovereign	26	Nil

In all some 289 soles were tagged. In addition 80 lemon soles were tagged using medium petersen discs.

All mature R. clavata were examined for gut contents, size of shell gland, and all eggs present were measured and counted.

The cooperation of the Newhaven fishermen and the information they were able to supply were greatly appreciated.

C L Whiting
28 March 1973

SEEN IN DRAFT: W Burroughs (Skipper)

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List
C L Whiting
R Tucker