

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

1977 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV TELLINA: CRUISE 4
(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF

C L Whiting

B C Mumford - 12 April - 20 April

T Watson - 21 April - 4 May

DURATION

12 April - 4 May

LOCALITY

East coast inshore area, Southern North Sea

AIMS

1. To repeat previous groundfish surveys in the area between 51°30'N and 53°N.
2. To collect length compositions and otoliths of plaice, sole, cod, whiting and rays as a supplement to the market sampling programme.
3. To collect small plaice and bring them back alive to the laboratory for experimental use.
4. To tag small plaice, soles and cod if they are caught in sufficient numbers.
5. To carry out six trawl hauls in the Sizewell Bank area.
6. To collect small cod and bring them back alive to FRL for experimental use.
7. To collect a sample of small cod for Dr Portmann.

NARRATIVE

TELLINA left Lowestoft at 0800h 12 April and docked at Ipswich at 1900h, having completed two survey hauls on the way. Work continued on a daily basis, and except for 14 April, when TELLINA was forced by deteriorating weather conditions to return to Ipswich, worked every day until 17 April. TELLINA docked in Lowestoft at 1400h 17 April having completed the twelve most southerly groundfish survey hauls. Work then continued from Lowestoft from 18 April to 4 May, the mid-trip break being taken on 23, 24 April.

Dr Utting (CEGB) was present on 19 and 20 April when the Sizewell Bank and Dunwich areas were worked.

On 26 April a fresh southerly breeze forced an early return to harbour, and on 28 April TELLINA did not put to sea because of a forecast of an imminent south-easterly gale.

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RESULTS

1. All 17 survey hauls were successfully completed using bobbin gear and in addition the 5 most northerly hauls were repeated with bosom gear. All hauls were of 1 hours duration.
2. All plaice, sole, cod, whiting and rays caught were measured and otolith samples taken as follows:-

Whiting	259
Plaice	195
Sole	123
Cod	71
Lemon Sole	6

The stomach contents and maturity stages of all otolithed fish were recorded.

3. A total of 56 sole and 64 plaice were brought back alive to the laboratory for experimental use.
4. A total of 252 cod, 353 plaice and 218 sole were tagged in the area between Pakefield and Kessingland. All fish tagged were below the minimum landing size.
5. Six half-hour hauls were made in an area up to 2 miles off the Sizewell Bank power station on 19 April and three one hour hauls in the Dunwich area on 20 April.
6. 50 small codling were returned alive to FRL for experimental use.
7. A sample of 27 codling was collected and deep frozen for Dr Portmann.

C L Whiting
19 May 1977

SEEN IN DRAFT: A Pearson

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List

C L Whiting

B C Mumford

T Watson

Dr N Utting (CEGB)

T Ellinor