

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

1977 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: R V TELLINA: CRUISE 5

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

STAFF: W G Parnell)
J C Hill) 12 - 25 May

S R Flatman)
R Cross) 31 May - 7 June

DURATION: Left Lowestoft 0800 h, 12 May
Docked Lowestoft 2130 h, 7 June

All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY: English North-east coast and Wash

AIMS:

- 1 To study the distribution of young gadoids along the English North-east coast and in the Wash.
- 2 To tag 1-group gadoids.
- 3 To compare the efficiency of the Boris Box trawl with the Boris Prawn trawl as used by CLIONE.
- 4 To test the efficiency of fish traps on rough grounds.
- 5 To carry out a 2 m beam trawl survey in Tees Bay and Hartlepool Bay to determine the distribution and abundance of transplanted flatfish.

NARRATIVE

As TELLINA was unable to steam to the north-east coast on the scheduled first day of the cruise because of a bad forecast, four trawl stations were worked close inshore off Pakefield where pre-recruit plaice, sole, cod and whiting were tagged.

On the next day, 13 May, TELLINA sailed at 0800 h and steamed north until, near the Cackle Buoy, rapidly deteriorating sea conditions forced her return to Lowestoft at 1600 h that same evening. Passage was finally made north after sailing at 0800 h 14 May and a rendezvous made with CLIONE off Hartlepool at 0715 h the next day. A comparative fishing exercise then commenced and was successfully completed by 1030 h, 16 May. For the next 3 days TELLINA worked from Hartlepool tagging 1-group cod and whiting and undertaking two 2 m beam trawl surveys in Hartlepool/Tees Bays in an attempt to find transplanted soles. TELLINA moved to North Shields on 20 May but after finding very few cod in the area, returned to Hartlepool on 22 May when the fish traps were shot for the first time in 20 m of water. No fish were taken in the traps but it was noticeable that catches generally with the Boris Box trawl were much lighter than earlier in the cruise. With only poor catches off Hartlepool, TELLINA worked off and out of Scarborough on 24 and 25 May but here catches of young gadoids were even lower. Traps were again shot, this time on a rough rocky bottom but again without success. An adverse forecast for working off Scarborough and for steaming to Boston ended the first part of the cruise in Scarborough. Crew and scientific staff returned to Lowestoft 26 May.

Crew and a change of scientific staff joined TELLINA at 1430 h 30 May. A heavy NE swell delayed sailing until 1200 h 31 May, when the vessel steamed to the Wash. One haul with the Lowestoft frame trawl was made before TELLINA laid for the night. A second frame trawl haul at the mouth of the Wash was followed by three tows with the Boris box trawl off Skegness. The vessel steamed to Boston and docked at 1500 h 1 June. During the period 2-6 June TELLINA was able to work on only two days, one on the grounds of Skegness and one in the north of the Wash carrying out beam trawl stations. On 7 June the vessel left Boston and steamed to fishing grounds in the Lynn Deep area. Gale forecasts forced TELLINA to abandon the prospect of trawling and continue steaming to Lowestoft, where she docked at 2130 h.

RESULTS

1 1-group cod were most abundant 7-10 miles off Hartlepool. Very few were taken close in to the coast and none at all were caught in the Wash. 1-group whiting were also abundant off Hartlepool but were more widespread in their distribution than cod, good concentrations being found off Skegness and in the deeper water off the mouth of the Wash. Reports from other vessels indicated concentrations in the Lynn Deep area but TELLINA was unable to follow up due to bad weather.

2 A total of 1604 fish (mainly 1-groups) were tagged, made up of:

	Suffolk coast	NE coast	Wash
Cod	17	272	-
Whiting	5	910	295
Plaice	74	-	-
Sole	24	-	-
Haddock	-	7	-

3 6 tows were made with the Boris Box trawl to compare its efficiency with that of the Boris Prawn trawl towed alongside by CLIONE.

4 The string of 8 fish traps was shot twice, once in 20 m or water off Hartlepool and once on rocky ground close in off Scarborough. Shooting and hauling provided no problems, shooting taking roughly 10 minutes and hauling 15 minutes. On each string, 2 traps were baited with whiting, 2 with sprats, 2 with dabs and 2 left empty. On neither occasion were any fish taken.

Tows in the vicinity with the Boris Box trawl revealed that few gadoids were present in the immediate area.

5 No 1-group sole were taken in either of the 2 surveys carried out with the 2 m beam trawl in Hartlepool/Tees Bay.

6 No 0-group gadoids were taken in the 5 tows with the Lowestoft Frame Trawl along the NE coast or at the mouth of the Wash.

7 Two 2 m beam trawl stations were worked in the Wash and all small fish preserved.

W G Parnell
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17 June 1977

Seen in draft: AP

Initiailed: A J L

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list W G Parnell S R Flatman
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