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Mr Rolfe

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

1974 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV TELLINA: CRUISE 6

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

STAFF

M S Rolfe  
B H Holford  
M R Vince  
A E Howard  
P A Hardiman } Diving Team

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 0745 h, 5 June

Arrived Lowestoft 1100 h, 14 June

All times Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY

North Sea (Shipwash)

AIMS

To conduct a feasibility study into the effects of trailer dredging on benthic fauna and sediments using diving techniques.

NARRATIVE

TELLINA left Lowestoft at 0745 h, 5 June and berthed at Cliff Quay, Ipswich at 1400 h the same day. The scientific staff travelling overland met at Felixstowe Ferry at 1100 h for a practice dive (for Messrs Howard and Hardiman) off the River Deben.

Additional gear was then put aboard TELLINA and Mr Rolfe went aboard at 2130 h, the Diving Team lodging ashore.

Strong southerly winds prevented TELLINA from putting to sea on 6 June but the opportunity was taken for Messrs Hardiman and Howard to make their second practice dive in the River Deben.

From 7-13 June TELLINA worked daily out of Ipswich. On 7 June the divers searched for trailer dredge tracks in an area 2 miles NW of the Shipwash L.V. where the dredger BOWBELLE had been operating on 29 May. No tracks were found on the very mobile bottom. On 8 June a dahn was dropped astern of the BOWPRINCE working in the same area and the located tracks were measured and sediment samples taken on 8, 9, 10 and 13 June. On 11 June a search was made 1-2 miles SSW of the Shipwash L.V. where previously CLIONE had located trailer tracks on the sector scanner. Some tracks of unknown age were found and measured and further sediment samples were taken. On 12 June a dahn was laid astern of the SANDSKUA while she was dredging 2/3 mile SSW of the Shipwash L.V. The tracks were located and measured and sediment samples taken. The same tracks could not however be relocated on 13 June although the dahn had not moved. Both dahns were lifted before TELLINA returned to Ipswich where

the scientific staff went ashore at 1830 h. TELLINA left Ipswich at 0445 h 14 June and docked at Lowestoft at 1100 h on the same day.

OBSERVATIONS

a. 2 miles NW of Shipwash L.V.

The seabed in this area consisted of sandy gravel overlaid by a mobile layer of sand and broken shell which was thrown up into large ridges by the tidal current. In addition a third layer, normally carried in suspension, was deposited up to 2 mm deep at slack water. There was a marked absence of fauna. BOWPRINCE's trailer tracks, originally 3 m across by 1-1.5 m deep, were rapidly filled by the mobile sand. After 24 h the tracks had disappeared in many places.

b. 1-2 miles SSW of Shipwash L.V.

The sediments in this area were more varied ranging from exposed clay to sand and coarse gravel. A richer benthos was apparent. The tracks made by the SANDSKUA were much smaller than those of the BOWPRINCE measuring 2 m wide by 0.5 m deep. Unfortunately this track could not be relocated.

c. Quantitative and qualitative samples for benthic and sediment analysis were taken from both areas whenever possible. In addition to the diving activities, seven conical dredge hauls were made in the general area of study and observations were made in the wake of the dredges.

M S Rolfe  
25 July 1974

SEEN IN DRAFT: AP

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List

- M S Rolfe
- B H Holford
- M R Vince
- A E Howard
- P A Hardiman