

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

1975 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: R V TELLINA: CRUISE 6

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

STAFF: R J Wood
J R Joyce (26-27 June)
B H Holford (27 June)
K H Brander (" ")
G J Howlett (30 June - 10 July)
T W Boon (14 - 22 July)

DURATION: Left Lowestoft 0615 h, 26 June
Arrived Lowestoft 1100h, 22 July

All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY: English east coast

AIMS:

- 1 To obtain cores of bottom sediment off Lowestoft.
- 2 To carry out a 13 hour current meter and water bottle station off Lowestoft.
- 3 To investigate the distribution and abundance of young herring and sprats along the English east coast from the Farne Islands to Dungeness.

NARRATIVE

TELLINA sailed from Lowestoft at 0615 h, 26 June and carried out the 13 h DRCM and water bottle station, work being completed by 2040 h that day. Sediment cores from a grid of stations off Lowestoft were obtained by the divers, Messrs Holford, Brander and Joyce, the following day but unfavourable weather conditions then prevented the departure of TELLINA northwards until 0800 h 30 June. A good passage in fine weather enabled work to commence at Blyth at 1130 h next day, 1 July. During the following 9 days the inshore herring and sprat survey was completed between the Farne Islands and Lowestoft and TELLINA returned to Lowestoft at 1630 h 10 July. A mid trip break was taken from 11-13 July. TELLINA sailed from Lowestoft again at 0730 h 14 July and continued the survey southwards. With all aims completed the cruise was terminated when TELLINA returned to Lowestoft at 1100 h 22 July.

RESULTS

Aims 1 and 2: The 13 h DRCM and water bottle station was completed and 12 sediment cores were obtained in and around the spoil dumping area off Lowestoft.

Aim 3: Catches of 0-group herring both in the northern and southern parts of the inshore area surveyed were very low. This was expected in the south, in view of the very poor larval production in the Southern Bight and English Channel last winter. Catches of 0-group herring in the south were, in fact, the smallest so far obtained since the inshore surveys were started in 1965. In the north, where larval production last autumn was good, the very small catches of herring which were obtained offshore in the midwater trawl were undoubtedly associated with the exceptionally small length of the fish this year.

At Blyth on 1 July for example the modal size of herring obtained with the beach seine was only 6.5 cm and at Hartlepool on 3 July 6.0 cm. Along the Lincolnshire coast and in the Wash 0-group herring, although somewhat larger, (offshore mode 7.5 - 10.5 cm) were still confined to the coastal strip, few being caught further offshore than 3 miles.

Sprats appeared to be particularly abundant off the English north-east coast and near to the entrance to the River Humber. They were also widely distributed in low densities in the southern area including the Thames Estuary. Catches here also included large quantities of larvae and recently metamorphosed sprats.

R J Wood
5 August 1975

SEEN IN DRAFR: N P

INITIALLED: A J L

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List

R Wood
J Joyce
B Holford
K Brander
G Howlett
T Boon