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

1979 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

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

REPORT: PROGRAMME A RV TELLINA: CRUISE 6

STAFF

Part 1 C L Whiting
R Cross

Part 2 A M Watson
R Cross

DURATION

Part 1 11-21 September

Part 2 24 September - 8 October

PROGRAMME B: PUSH NET TEAM - LAND BASED

STAFF

T Watson
M White

DURATION

1 September - 22 September and 10th October

LOCALITY

Humber to North Foreland, English East coast.

AIMS

1. To carry out the English commitment to the International Young Flatfish Survey in the North Sea (project 1, 3, 4, A).
2. To determine the distribution and abundance of young fish in the Wash nursery ground (project 1, 3, 2 E - FSM1).

NARRATIVE: PROGRAMME A

TELLINA worked from Lowestoft, Gillingham and Ipswich between 11 and 21 September on a daily basis to complete the southern part of the survey. 17 September was lost due to strong southwesterly winds. An attempt was made on 19 September to pick up two stations - Gunfleet Spit and West Sunk but an increasing swell and freshening wind made this impossible. The mid-trip break was taken at Lowestoft on 22 and 23 September.

TELLINA sailed from Lowestoft on 24 September and worked from Grimsby until 28 September, completing the survey of the Humber area. TELLINA worked from Boston until 3 October when the stations in the Wash were completed.

TELLINA returned to Lowestoft on 4 October, fishing off Wells and Hemsby on the way. The remaining stations off Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft were completed by 8 October and in addition live plaice and rays were obtained for Mr P Scholes.

NARRATIVE: PROGRAMME B

The pushnet survey commenced on the evening tide at Cleethorpes on 1 September. By 12 September only Brancaster, Blakeney Point and Mablethorpe remained unsampled. This was due to adverse tides and weather conditions.

The staff travelled to Boston on 13 September and beam trawling commenced in the Wash the next day and continued until 19 September, using the commercial vessel MEDWAY HARVEST. Brancaster was successfully sampled as the staff returned home from Boston, Blakeney Point on 22 September and Mablethorpe on 10 October.

RESULTS

TELLINA carried out 136 beam trawl hauls, all fish being identified and measured. Otoliths were taken from any plaice within the length range at which both O- and I-group fish could occur. Bottom sediment type was identified from grab samples at each haul.

All 25 of the shore based push-net sites were sampled, and 43 beam trawl hauls carried out from MEDWAY HARVEST.

Numbers of O-group plaice appear lower than usual, while soles and turbot are more abundant.

C L Whiting
A M Watson
9 November 1979

INITIALLED: AJL

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