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FISHERIES LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND

1970 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: R V TELLINA: CRUISE 6a
(Provisional: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF:

R G Houghton
T Williams

DURATION:

Left Lowestoft 1220 hours, 1 June
Arrived Weymouth 1830 hours, 12 June
All times are B S T

LOCALITY:

Western English Channel

AIMS:

1. To determine the distribution of all size groups of the local plaice stock.
2. To determine mean selection length of plaice in the local fishery.
3. To determine differences in the food of plaice between size groups and different grounds.
4. To mark and release young soles in the Exe, Teign, Dart and Salcombe Rivers in the event of bad weather.

NARRATIVE

TELLINA left Lowestoft in calm weather and made a good passage to Weymouth where she docked at 1700 hours 2 June. At the first station 10 m west of Portland Bill the trawl came fast and was badly damaged by what was thought to be an aircraft on the seabed. Since the damage was extensive and the spare was still being made in Brixham we could not continue fishing. TELLINA arrived Brixham at 1300 hours 3 June. The net was repaired the next day and the spare net roped out the day after that. As it happened a strong SE gale blew up on 4 June and lasted for three days and therefore not much fishing time was lost due to the damage.

Fishing recommenced on 7 June when 4 stations were covered to the northeast of Brixham. A further 2 stations were completed the following day on passage to Plymouth. Fuel and water were taken aboard on the morning of 9 June and three one-hour hauls were made on the inshore grounds west of Plymouth. The offshore grounds were worked on the next day in three hauls and TELLINA again returned to Plymouth for the night.

Three hauls were made on 11 June to the southeast of Start Point and Berry Head and the night was spent in Torquay Harbour. We left Torquay at 0615 hours 12 June, fished for one hour in Torbay and then steamed east to the middle of Lyme Bay for one haul. The last station off Chesil Beach was as memorable as the first since we caught a good bag of fish including 3 lobsters and a huge slab of stone which had to be cut free of the net.

RESULTS

1. Approximately 400 plaice, soles and lemon soles were caught, measured and otolithed.
2. The few fish which were taken in the cover were caught in the shallow waters of Teignmouth and Torbay.
3. Samples of gut contents by length groups of each species were taken at each station.
4. Fishing was not attempted in the estuaries and therefore no young soles were marked.

R G Houghton
23 June 1970

Seen in draft: W B (Skipper)

INITIALED: A J L

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List
Mr Houghton
Mr Williams
D I (Southwest)