

Provisional: not to be quoted without reference to the author

R.V. TELLINA

Report for Cruise 7/1968

Staff

J. D. Riley
P. Walker
J. R. J. Tipple
S. J. Lockwood (10 April only)

Duration

1-11 April

Locality

Suffolk Coast.

Aims

1. To make a routine survey of the Sizewell Bank area for 1-group flatfish, especially 1-group sole, using the standard 2 metre beam trawl.
2. To release seabed and surface drifters.
3. To make an inshore plankton survey of fish eggs and larvae
4. To make an otter trawl survey for larger sole using a cod-end cover.

Narrative

TELLINA worked on a day-to-day basis from Lowestoft. Two days were lost due to bad weather, 2 and 5 April. On 10 April Mr. Lockwood supervised the testing of the Barnett and Hardy benthos suction dredge off Lowestoft. All the other days were spent working on the Sizewell Bank area.

Results

1. Catches of 1-group flatfish continued to fall on the previous month's samples (TELLINA 5/1968). Catches of sole and plaice were down slightly but the numbers of dabs fell by 50 per cent overall. The size of the dabs continues to be unexpectedly small (from 3.0 to 5.5 cm overall length), this compares very badly with 1-group dab population in the Irish Sea at this time of year.
2. Seabed and sea-surface drifters were released at the three inshore stations as on the previous cruise and, in addition, drops were made further offshore at 1°55'E, 2°05'E and 2°15'E.
3. Plankton from inside, on top and outside Sizewell Bank was collected with a 12" tin tow net with a 11.27 cm diameter aperture in the nose cone.
4. The otter trawl survey revealed that numbers of 'recovering' plaice had come into the area during the last month and that maturing sole were to be caught on top of the bank for the first time this year. The sole were brought back to the laboratory for use in the hatchery.
5. A search was made with the conical dredge for the bivalve Venerupis sp. for Mr. Cruise of the Burnham-on-Crouch laboratory but without success.
6. A quantity of live Ophiothrix fragilis was collected for Dr. F. R. Harden Jones.

7. A modification of the Barnett and Hardy benthos suction sampler was tested but will require minor modifications for successful operations.

J. D. Riley

3 May 1968

Seen in draft W. B.

Initialed A. J. L.

Distribution

Basic list plus the following

Mr. Riley)
Mr. Walker } Scientific staff on cruise.
Mr. Tipple }
Mr. Lockwood)