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FISHERIES LABORATORY LOWESTOFT SUFFOLK ENGLAND

REPORT : RV TELLINA : CRUISE 7

STAFF:

R J Wood
T J Hulme

DURATION:

3 - 20 July

LOCALITY:

English East Coast (Farne Islands to Dungeness)

AIMS:

1. To investigate the distribution and abundance of young herring and sprats, along the English east coast using beach seine and midwater trawls.
2. To collect samples of young herring for Dr Greer-Walker and Mr Davey (Helminthology).

NARRATIVE:

A north-westerly gale prevented leaving harbour on 2 July, but TELLINA was able to sail from Lowestoft at 0925 hours 3 July. As the weather was still bad to the north TELLINA proceeded to work southwards and the inshore survey between Lowestoft and Dungeness was completed under favourable conditions by the evening of 7 July and TELLINA returned to Lowestoft at 2055 hours. TELLINA sailed again at 0900 hours 9 July and proceeded to work northwards. This second part of the cruise was carried out under generally unfavourable weather conditions with fresh-gale force winds blowing on most days, although usually from a west-north westerly direction which enabled work to continue in the coastal waters. During fishing operations approximately 1 mile to the north of Flamborough Head on 11 July part of the midwater trawl became entangled in the propeller of TELLINA at 1630 hours and it was necessary to ask for the assistance of the Flamborough Head Lifeboat. TELLINA was taken in tow at 1720 hours and reached Bridlington harbour at 1910 hours. Local skin divers had the propeller cleared by 2030 hours and they reported that there appeared to be no damage to either propeller or rudder. TELLINA was therefore able to sail from Bridlington at 0830 hours the following morning and carry on working northwards. 15 and 16 July were spent in Hartlepool sheltering from a northerly gale. At 1000 hours 17 July the inshore fishing vessel TRADEWIND (BH 7) was found disabled with engine trouble 3 miles South east of Sunderland, she was taken in tow by TELLINA at 1010 hours and safely berthed at 1100 hours in Sunderland. The most northerly point of the inshore survey was reached at 0640

hours 18 July in the vicinity of the Farne Islands and thereafter the remainder of the cruise was spent in returning southwards and completing parts of the survey which had been omitted earlier because of the adverse weather conditions. TELLINA returned to Lowestoft at 1225 hours 20 July.

RESULTS:

1. Catches of Downs Stock 0-group herring in the southern part of the survey area were the best which have been made since these inshore surveys were commenced in 1965, and it would appear that the 1969/70 year class in this stock is the strongest one to be produced for some years.
2. As had been expected from the westerly distribution of the Whitby/Flamborough herring larvae in October 1969, catches of 0-group herring in the Wash/Lincolnshire coast area were exceptionally good during this cruise, however catches in many localities further to the north were also surprisingly good and it must be concluded that the 1969 year class in the Longstone component of the Bank Stock is also a good one.
3. 1-group sprats of the 1969 year class were widely distributed throughout the Thames Estuary and off the North east coast and some good catches were also made in the Wash area. The prospects for next season's sprat fisheries in all these areas must be encouraging.

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. Samples of young herring were preserved for Mr Greer-Walker and Mr Davey.
2. 20 inshore water samples were collected for Dr Reynolds at approximately 10 mile intervals between the Wash and Farne Islands.

Signed R J Wood

23 July 1970

SEEN IN DRAFT: A J Lee

WW Burroughs (Master)

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List

R J Wood

T J Hulme