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

1975 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: R V TELLINA: CRUISE 7

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

STAFF: R G Houghton
M J Holden (to 27 August)
C L Whiting (from 28 August)

DURATION: Left Lowestoft 0930 h 19 August
Arrived Grimsby 0430 h 2 September

All times are British Summer Time

LOCALITY: North east coast

AIMS:

- 1 To carry out depth-stratified trawl surveys for demersal species in 2 areas:
a) between 55° N and $55^{\circ}20'$ N and b) between $54^{\circ}05'$ N and $54^{\circ}30'$ N.
- 2 To collect lemon sole ovaries for histological examination.
- 3 To collect stomach contents of the main demersal species.
- 4 To preserve the cover catch of small fish from Druridge Bay for Mr Walker.

NARRATIVE:

TELLINA left Lowestoft at 0930 h 19 August and arrived off the Tyne at 0930 h 20 August. One haul was completed before docking at North Shields at 1100 h. TELLINA worked each day out of North Shields until 24 August completing a further 26 hauls and the first survey. CARRICK LASS, a North Shields trawler, asked for assistance on 21 August as she had sprung a leak 12 miles east of the Tyne. TELLINA escorted her into North Shields. August 25 was spent steaming to Scarborough and surveying the inshore grounds south of Whitby for areas suitable for trawling, arriving in Scarborough at 1615 h. Seventeen stations of the second survey were completed during the next three days from Scarborough. Fog and a gale between 29 and 31 August limited fishing to 2 hauls on 30 August. The Scarborough survey was completed on 1 September. The remainder of the cruise was to have been spent comparing the catch rates of the Boris Ailsea box-trawl with and without bobbins on the footrope. Two pairs of stations were almost completed in Filey Bay when the trawl came fast. After much effort and a bent after gallows, nearly all of the gear was retrieved albeit rather dishevelled. The cruise was then abandoned and TELLINA steamed to Grimsby during the night of 1 September and docked at 0430 h 2 September.

RESULTS

1 Both surveys were completed: 25 stations between 55° and $55^{\circ}20'$ N and 20 stations between $54^{\circ}05'$ N and $54^{\circ}30'$ N. All fish caught were sorted into species and counted. Cod, haddock, whiting, plaice and lemon soles were measured and otolith samples taken. The best catches (from a commercial point of view) were taken in less than 40 m off the River Tyne where haddock and plaice predominated.

0-group whiting (mode 8 cm) were abundant close inshore particularly in Filey Bay where 1026 were caught in one half-hour tow. Cod were scarce and there was no evidence of a strong 1974 year class inshore. Very heavy traces (probably of sprats) were seen on the echo-sounder, particularly north of the Tyne. The distributions of plaice and dabs were linked with depth (as on TELLINA 5/75), most fish being caught in the 0-20 and the 0-40 m band respectively.

2 Only 3 lemon sole ovaries were preserved. Most of the fish caught were immature.

3 Stomach contents of cod, haddock and whiting were collected.

4 Small fish from Druridge Bay were preserved for Mr Walker.

R G Houghton
16 September 1975

SEEN IN DRAFT: A P

INITIALED: A J L

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List

R G Houghton
C L Whiting
M J Holden

Northumberland Sea Fisheries Committee
North-eastern Sea Fisheries Committee