

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

1971 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV TELLINA: CRUISE 8

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

STAFF

R J Wood  
T J Hulme

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 0945 hours, 28 June

Arrived Lowestoft 1530 hours, 15 July

All times are British Standard Time

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, sprats and plankton from selected stations for Mr G H Hall (Sandwich Student).

NARRATIVE

TELLINA sailed from Lowestoft at 0945 hours, 28 June and made a good passage northwards. During the following eight days beach seine hauls were made at various localities inshore and hauls with the midwater trawl offshore, between the Farne Islands and Great Yarmouth. TELLINA returned to Lowestoft at 1855 hours, 6 July, and sailed again at 0930 hours, 8 July. During the remainder of the cruise fishing was carried out with both the beach seine and midwater trawl between Lowestoft and Dungeness. The exceptionally fine weather conditions under which the greater part of this cruise was carried out enabled the whole programme to be completed by 1415 hours, 15 July, and TELLINA returned to Lowestoft at 1530 hours the same day.

RESULTS

1. Catches of 0-group herring along the English north-east coast were generally very poor and in fact many of the hauls with the midwater trawl were blank. There was also a marked lack, except in a few localities, of the small scattered plume type echo trace usually associated with small herring and sprats, and it must be concluded that the 1970 year class of herring in the Bank stock is a weak one.

2. In contrast the catches of O-group herring obtained from hauls with the midwater trawl off the southern stretch of coastline from just northwards of Great Yarmouth to Deal were consistently good, and there was also an abundance of small scattered plume type echo trace. The 1970/71 year class of herring in the Downs stock appears therefore to be quite a strong one.
3. Sprat catches on this cruise were generally small in all areas but in the south, as with the O-group herring, sprats were so widely distributed that the overall population must be of a considerable size. This situation is identical to that found in 1967 and that was followed by a very good winter fishery for sprats in the Wash. The prospects for next season's sprat fisheries in the Wash and Thames must therefore be considered to be good.
4. A number of samples of young herring, sprats and plankton from selected stations were collected for Mr G H Hall.

R J Wood

23 July, 1971

SEEN IN DRAFT: W Burroughs

INITIALED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION

Basic List

Mr R J Wood

Mr T J Hulme