

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

1972 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV TELLINA: CRUISE 8

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

PART A

STAFF

E Edwards 22-25 Aug  
C G Brown  
I L Davies 26-31 Aug

DURATION

15 August-8 September 1972

LOCALITY

Irish Sea

AIMS

1. To survey the stocks of Nephrops off the Cumberland coast.
2. To examine the stomachs of Nephrops predators.
3. To continue trials with the experimental double codend Nephrops trawl.

NARRATIVE

The vessel sailed from Lowestoft on 15 August and on the 16th carried out a gamma probe survey on the Barrow Sands, Thames Estuary for Dr Shelton. Sailing from Ipswich was delayed until the 18th and after a rather difficult passage TELLINA arrived at Whitehaven on the 23rd. Work on the Nephrops fishery continued until 30 August when Mr K Wilson and Mr P Connor joined the ship to continue the additional part of the cruise.

RESULTS

1. A total of 12 one hour trawl hauls were made on the Nephrops grounds between Cumberland and the Isle of Man. Catches of Nephrops were generally low and ranged from  $\frac{5}{2}$  basket to only a few specimens. A total of 1,842 individuals were measured and sexed to collect information on the general size and sex ratio of the stocks. Additional observations were made on gonad development.
2. Some 200 whiting stomachs were examined for Nephrops remains. Observations were made at various times of the day but less than 1 per cent were found to contain Nephrops.
3. Six hauls were made with the experimental double codend Nephrops trawl. Out of a total of 3455 whiting and pout taken in the trawl 43 per cent were taken in the lower codend. Similarly 30 per cent of the Nephrops

catch was taken in the upper codend. These results suggest that even with the rigid framework now used to keep the openings of both codends open the partition net arches downwards. Further development of this gear is required before satisfactory separation can be achieved. It is planned to continue this during TELLINA 9 off the NE coast.

E Edwards  
10 October 1972

## PART B

### STAFF

K W Wilson  
P M Connor

### DURATION

Left Whitehaven 0430 h 1 September

Arrived Milford Haven 2100 h 4 September

All times are Greenwich Mean Time

### LOCALITY

Irish Sea

### AIMS

1. To carry out a series of trawling transects off St Bees Head and in Morecambe Bay to assess the incidence of lymphocystis and other diseases in flatfish stocks.
2. To collect a sample of mixed fish from Liverpool Bay and Milford Haven for Dr Blackman, Burnham, as part of the DAFS/Torry/Burnham joint programme of hydrocarbon analysis.

### NARRATIVE

Messrs Wilson and Connor joined TELLINA at Whitehaven at 1700 h 31 August. The next day she sailed at 0430 h and after two hauls off St Bees Head sailed to the Lune Deep where a further haul was made before TELLINA docked at Fleetwood at 1600 h. On 2 September three trawl hauls were taken in Morecambe Bay; TELLINA docked at Liverpool at 1700 h. The following day a short haul ( $\frac{1}{2}$  hour) near the Bar Lightvessel was made for fish and benthos for hydrocarbon analysis and a haul near the Great Orme taken on passage to Holyhead completed the fish disease survey. On 4 September TELLINA steamed to Milford Haven where she lay at anchor overnight. After surveying the ground the following morning a short haul was made on Dale Roads. Despite extensive damage to the trawl a sample of fish was obtained. Messrs Wilson and Connor were put ashore at Milford Haven at 0830 h 5 September, and returned to Burnham-on-Crouch. TELLINA sailed for Lowestoft.

### RESULTS

1. The transects were completed successfully but the numbers of flatfish in

Morecambe Bay were disappointingly small. The levels of the major "diseases" - lymphocystis and dermal ulcerations found in the area for plaice, dab and flounder are given below.

Species	Total Number examined	No. lymphocystis	No. ulcerated	No. old 'trawl' damage
Plaice	587	36	8	20
Dab	1145	3	33	18
Flounder	74	4	4	8

The fish were also examined for pigmentation abnormalities and were measured.

2. The haul in Liverpool Bay provided samples of plaice, dab, whiting and grey gurnard, and Portunus spp. for analysis. These were successfully despatched from Holyhead by rail.

A small sample of roundfish was obtained despite damage to the trawl in Milford Haven.

K M Wilson  
10 October 1972

SEEN IN DRAFT: W Burroughs (Master)

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION

Basic List

E Edwards  
C G Brown  
I L Davies  
K M Wilson  
P M Connor