

Mr. BALE.

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

1973 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV TELLINA: CRUISE 8

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

STAFF

R J Wood (3-13 July)
T J Hulme (3-17 July)

DURATION

Left Milford Haven 0830 h, 5 July

Arrived Lowestoft 1400 h, 24 July

All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY

Bristol Channel - Irish Sea

AIM

To investigate the distribution and abundance of young herring and sprats along the west coast of England and Wales and in the Irish Sea using beach seine and midwater trawl.

NARRATIVE

Staff and crew travelled to Milford Haven by rail on 3 July and joined TELLINA at 2030 h. The following day TELLINA remained in dock at Milford Haven while gear was taken on board and the ship prepared for sea. The opportunity was taken by the scientific staff to accompany D.I. Wales to the CEGB Power Station at Burry Port where samples of 0-group herring and sprats were collected from the cooling water inlet screens. TELLINA sailed from Milford Haven at 0830 h, 5 July and commenced the survey eastwards into Carmarthen Bay. On completion of the survey in this area TELLINA proceeded northwards and during the following 5 days the survey was continued into the Irish Sea. Deteriorating weather conditions plus the need to have repairs made to both radio and radar forced TELLINA to seek shelter in Liverpool at 1450 h, 10 July. The weather continued to be unfavourable for the next two days and TELLINA was forced to remain in Liverpool. This did however enable the scientific staff to pay visits to both the Liverpool and Bromborough Power Stations of CEGB. Unfortunately both of these stations are equipped with enclosed type filter systems, so that it was not possible to obtain any fish samples from them. It was however reported that whitebait are removed from various parts of the cooling system during cleaning operations. Mr Wood returned to Lowestoft on 13 July and TELLINA sailed from Liverpool at 0500 h the same day under the direction of Mr Hulme. The survey was then continued northwards as far as the Solway Firth before a marked deterioration in the weather forced TELLINA to seek shelter in Workington at 0830 h, 15 July. Bad weather prevented any further work and the cruise was terminated at 2000 h, 17 July when Mr Hulme returned to Lowestoft by rail. Continuing bad weather forced TELLINA to remain in Workington until 0100 h, 21 July when the return passage to Lowestoft was commenced. TELLINA tied up in Lowestoft at 1400 h, 24 July.

RESULTS

Two modal sizes of 0-group herring were distinguished during the survey. The smaller, and probably winter-spawned fish, were found in Carmarthen Bay and northwards as far as Morecambe Bay while the larger, and probably autumn-spawned fish, were distributed only in the more northerly part of the Irish Sea, ie along the north coast of Anglesey, across Liverpool Bay and along the Lancashire and Cumberland coasts.

Sprats were caught in most of the hauls made with the midwater trawl. Sprat larvae and post larvae were abundant in many localities while adult sprats were more abundant in Liverpool Bay and Morecambe Bay than elsewhere.

R J Wood
3 August 1973

SEEN IN DRAFT: WB

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION

Basic List

R J Wood

T J Hulme

DI Wales (6 copies)

DI Northwest (6 copies)

Dr A B Bowers (Port Erin)