

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

1975 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV TELLINA: CRUISE 8

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

STAFF

C. N. Humphreys (NIC)  
J Gooch (Student) 11-19 September  
A. M. Watson 22 September-3 October

DURATION

1st Part: Left Lowestoft 0630h 11 September  
Arrived Lowestoft 1930h 18 September  
2nd Part: Left Lowestoft 0845h 22 September  
Arrived Lowestoft 1500h 8 October

All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY

North Sea (English coastal waters)

AIMS

1. To carry out a survey of 0-group flatfish stocks in English North Sea coastal waters, using a Riley 2m. beam trawl and push nets.
2. To tag 1-group plaice and sole within the survey area.
3. To compare two series of push net catches made approximately 12 days apart at Cleethorpes.
4. To preserve all specimens obtained at selected stations within the Wash area.

NARRATIVE

The staff and crew joined TELLINA at Grimsby on 11 September, and on this and the following day push net stations were worked on the Cleethorpes beach.

On 13 September replicate hauls were made at Haile Sand and Bull Sand Fort together with 2 hauls in the Hawke Channel. Gale force winds prevented any work from being done on 14 September, but on 15 September work was again possible and an attempt was made to do replicate hauls at Cleeness Sands; here the sea bed was very rocky and the station was abandoned. A further 3 hauls were made at Bull Sand Fort but force 6 winds probably reduced the efficiency of the net. A haul was also attempted at Burcom Shoal but again this was not possible, owing to the nature of the sea bed.

On 16 September TELLINA proceeded to Mablethorpe and one series of replicate hauls and three additional stations were successfully completed. On 17 September TELLINA steamed to the Wash where it was hoped that a series of push net hauls could be made. However unfavourable winds made this impossible, so a replicate series of hauls were made off the SW corner of Long Sand.

On 18 September the weather was again unsuitable for push netting, and work was carried out in the channel north of Long Sand; here a replicate series of 10 hauls and a single haul at Roger Sand were successfully completed. TELLINA docked at Boston and the staff and crew travelled to Lowestoft for the mid cruise break.

The staff and crew rejoined TELLINA on 22 September, and on 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27 September work was made impossible by strong to gale force winds. On 28 September moderating winds enabled one station to be worked in the Freeman Channel, but work was abandoned when gale warnings were received.

On 29 September, work was again impossible owing to high winds, but after a favourable forecast TELLINA sailed from Boston at 0050 on 30 September and 7 further stations were worked in the Wash area. With only a short break in the weather forecasted it was decided to abandon any further work in the Wash, and TELLINA steamed to Lowestoft making 4 hauls off the Norfolk coast before docking at Lowestoft.

On 1 October strong winds prevented TELLINA from reaching Sizewell Bank and 2 stations were worked off Lowestoft. Again on 2 October high winds prevented TELLINA from proceeding south and 4 stations were completed off Great Yarmouth.

On 3 October, TELLINA steamed south but N W gales prevented her from getting further than Ipswich, 3 stations were worked on passage.

On 4 October an attempt was made to cross the Thames but strong winds prevented this and 2 stations were completed in the Wallet before returning to Ipswich. Again on 5 October an attempt was made to cross the Thames but conditions were unsuitable and it was decided to steam to Sizewell where it was hoped work might be possible. Here a replicate series of 10 hauls was completed. Owing to the shortage of time remaining available for work, it was decided to abandon any further attempts to work in the Thames and TELLINA returned to Lowestoft.

During 6 and 7 October TELLINA completed the work in the Sizewell bank area, and on 8 October 4 stations were completed in the Yarmouth/Winterton area.

TELLINA docked at Lowestoft 1500h on 8 October 1975.

## RESULTS

1. A total of 122 hauls, usually of 10 minutes duration, were carried out using a standard Riley 2m beam trawl. This virtually completed the survey in the Humber, Mablethorpe, Wash and Sizewell areas, but, with 5 exceptions, left all the work in the Thames area outstanding. The 10 replicate push net stations on the Long Sand (Wash) and West Barrow (Thames) also remained outstanding.
2. A total of 133 plaice and 35 soles were tagged and released; and 60 plaice and 44 soles were otolithed during the survey. The distribution of the numbers released by areas was as follows, the bracketed numbers representing the numbers of otoliths taken.

	<u>Plaice</u>	<u>Sole</u>
Humber	85 (1)	1
Mablethorpe	48	0
Wash	0(45)	0
Sizewell	0(14)	35(40)
Thames	0	0 (4)

The reduction of numbers tagged, compared with the 1974 survey, was, in part, due to the noticeably lower catch rates of 1-group plaice in the Mablethorpe area.

- The second series of push net hauls was successfully carried out on Cleethorpes beach. During this series the tidal range encountered was greater than in the first and a rather more hazardous stretch of beach had to be negotiated with the push net at low water.

Provisional catch rates of 0-group plaice for the two series were:

First series: 85, 139, 23, 67, 68, 59, 99, 89, 105, 95, 113 and 68

Second series: 87, 38, 103, 40, 48, 89, 130, 82 and 35
- All specimens obtained at 10 stations in the Humber and 5 stations in the Boston Deepes area of the Wash were preserved in spirit for P. Walker.

SEEN IN DRAFT: A Pearson

C N Humphreys  
15 October 1975

INITIALLED DHC

DISTRIBUTION

Basic List

C N Humphreys

J Gooch

A M Watson

T Watson

M L White

P Walker

P R Witthames

Fisheries Protection Service, Hull

Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee

East Suffolk and Norfolk River Authority

Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee

North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee

Northumberland Sea Fisheries Committee