

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

1977 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV TELLINA: CRUISE 8

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

STAFF:

R J Wood
J Dann (19-28 July)
T W Boon (1-9 August)

DURATION:

Left Lowestoft 0750 h 19 July
Arrived Lowestoft 1320 h 9 August
All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY:

English East Coast

AIM:

To investigate the distribution and abundance of Young herring of the 1976 year-class along the English east coast from the Farne Islands to Dungeness.

NARRATIVE:

TELLINA sailed from Lowestoft at 0750 h 19 July and made passage northwards. Good weather conditions enabled fishing operations to begin at Blyth at 1300 h 20 July. During the next 8 days the survey was completed between the Farne Islands and Lowestoft, TELLINA docking at Lowestoft for the mid-trip break at 1820 h 28 July. TELLINA sailed from Lowestoft to complete the last part of the survey at 0810 h 1 August and during the following 8 days the work between Lowestoft and Dungeness was carried out in generally good weather conditions. A number of comparative hauls with the mid-water sprat trawl were made off Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth during the final two days and the cruise was terminated when TELLINA docked at Lowestoft at 1320 h 9 August.

RESULTS

Catches of 0-group herring of the 1976 year-class were generally very low along almost the whole of the English east coast during this survey, as had been expected as a result of the very poor larval production last autumn and winter both in the central and southern North Sea and eastern Channel. 0-group herring were found to be distributed in 3 areas.

1. Tees Bay to Scarborough (Longstone group)
2. Humber to the Wash (Whitby group)
3. Winterton to Deal (Downs group)

0-group herring abundances were somewhat higher in area 1 than in the previous year, very much lower in area 2 and the same in area 3.

It must be concluded that both in the central North Sea and in the southern North Sea/eastern Channel spawning stocks, the 1976 year-class is an extremely weak one. In the

central North Sea stock it is certainly the weakest year-class encountered during the 12 years in which surveys of this type have been carried out.

Sprat catches were generally low this year along the English east coast except between Tees Bay and Scarborough. In this area the number of echo traces recorded however indicated a considerable concentration of sprats chiefly 8-11 cms in length.

R J Wood
17 August 1977

SEEN IN DRAFT: ASP

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List

R J Wood
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