

L. BEAR

Provisional: Not to be quoted without reference to the author.

RV TELLINA

Report for Cruise 8(b) 1969

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
FISHERIES AND FOOD  
RESEARCH

Staff:

D J Symonds  
P J Warren

Duration:

16-24 October

WEST

Aim

Survey of the Nephrops and prawn (Pandalus borealis) grounds off the Northumberland coast.

Procedure

The scientific staff joined TELLINA at North Shields at 2215 on the 16 October and fishing commenced on the 17th. Winds throughout the cruise were mainly light and, although persistent thick fog was encountered during the first 5 days, no fishing time was lost.

Twenty-nine half-hour and 2 one-hour hauls were made, using a 40 mm mesh shrimp trawl, in an area from 5 to 25 miles off the coast from Sunderland in the south to Craster in the north.

TELLINA was left at North Shields on the 24 October and the crew and scientific staff returned home by train.

RESULTS

Nephrops

Nephrops were caught in most hauls with the largest numbers (over 1000 per  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours fishing) being taken in over 45 fathoms in the gully extending south from the Farne Deeps; few were taken on the eastern and western edges of the survey area. The Nephrops were generally small with a modal length group of 25 to 29 mm carapace length. Hauls in the north of the area (Farne Deeps) contained a higher proportion of Nephrops over 30 mm carapace length than those hauls further south.

Pandalus spp.

As in previous surveys, the population of P. borealis was centred on the soft substrate in more than 45 fathoms. Population density was low over the survey area; the maximum catch for the cruise was a calculated 16.5 lbs per 30 minute tow, compared with previous maxima of 45 lbs (April 1968), 560 lbs (March 1967) and 108 lbs (September 1966). Mixtures of P. borealis and P. montagui occurred at most stations, although few pandalids were taken in less than 40 fathoms. Very few "0" group P. borealis were found in the catches or in the stomachs of whiting and haddock examined. Pandalids which were surplus to sample requirements were preserved and landed for the Dove Marine Laboratory.

**BYCATCH:**

Small whiting and haddock (up to 5 baskets per haul) were taken over the whole survey area, and formed the bulk of the bycatch. Length measurements were recorded for one basket of haddock and whiting at each station.

D J Symonds  
26.11.69

Initialed: AJL

Distribution:

Basic list, plus the following:-

D J Symonds  
P J Warren