

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

Miss Howard

1970 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV TELLINA: CRUISE 9

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

STAFF

- A. J D Riley
C M Worrall (Student) } 25 August-8 September
- B. A Jones
P Walker } 9-18 September

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1000 hours 26 August

Arrived Lowestoft 2300 hours 18 September

All times are British Standard Time

LOCALITY

English East Coast: Flamborough Head to North Foreland

AIMS

1. Survey of the inshore distribution of 0-group fish using standard 2 m and 4 m beam trawls with special emphasis on the polluted waters of the Thames and Humber and the distribution of 0-group brill in the Wash.

2. High speed tow-net sampling for fish eggs and larvae supplementary to survey completed in April/May (TELLINA 5).

NARRATIVE

PART A.

The start of the cruise was delayed until 26 August to facilitate the completion of a refit. During the period 26 August to 4 September the coasts and estuaries to the south of Lowestoft were surveyed. On 30 August a preliminary beam trawl survey was made in the Thames between Sheerness and Cold Harbour Point and on 31 August Dr A Wheeler (British Museum, Natural History) was aboard for a further beam trawl survey of the Gravesend and Lower Hope Reaches of the Thames. On 7 September in poor weather four beam trawl hauls were made near the Scroby sands off Gt Yarmouth. No work was possible on 8 September due to gales.

RESULTS

1. Aims 1 and 2 were completed. 65 2 m beam trawl hauls, 4 Plankton tow-net hauls and 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ M Push Net catches were made.

2. The beam trawl survey up the Thames revealed a progressive decline in the number of species in the catches and the total number of fish up to Cold Harbour Point where no fish or demersal crustacea or molluscs or macrobenthos was found.

3. O and I-group plaice were brought back alive for Mr D Woodhead (Radio-biological Lab).

J D Riley

PART B.

After being delayed for two days by southerly gales, TELLINA sailed from Lowestoft at 0900 hours, 11 September. The 2 m beam trawl was worked at two stations this day, off Wells and in the Burnham Flats area, before TELLINA lay for the night in the Wash.

The following day work started on the Wash survey. Eight stations were completed with the 2 m beam trawl and two with the 1½ m push net on banks at low water. TELLINA put into Kings Lynn for the night.

TELLINA sailed from Kings Lynn at 0500 hours, 13 September and recommenced the Wash survey, completing 12 stations before docking at Boston for the night.

On 14 September TELLINA left Boston at 0600 hours and surveyed the Lincolnshire coast from the mouth of the Wash to the Humber. Nine stations were done with the 2 m beam trawl and 2 with the 12" high speed tow-net. TELLINA tied up in Grimsby for the night.

Leaving Grimsby dock at 0630 hours, 15 September TELLINA completed the survey of the lower Humber and returned again to Grimsby for the night.

The following day gale force N.W. winds prevented TELLINA from continuing the survey northwards to Flamborough Head, however on 17 September winds though still strong had veered to S.W. and TELLINA was able to work the 8 fathom otter trawl off Maplethorpe, returning to Grimsby that night with live fish. The fish were collected at 0700 hours, 18 September by lorry to be transported back to the laboratory. TELLINA sailed from Grimsby at 0800 hours docking at Lowestoft at 2300 hours.

RESULTS

1. The O-group fish survey was completed between Spurn Point and Lowestoft as planned. Of the commercially important species, plaice and sole predominated in the catches. One ten minute tow travelling 400 m with the 2 m beam trawl off Haile Sands near the Humber produced 337 plaice and 83 soles.

2. Plankton samples were taken with the 12" high speed tow-net, in the Wash off Skegness and the mouth of the Humber.

3. Samples of O-group cod were preserved and live ones returned to the laboratory for Mr V Bye.

4. Live sole were transported to the laboratory for Mr Thacker.

A Jones

John D Riley
28.9.70

SEEN IN DRAFT: W Burroughs (Master)

INITIALLED: A J L

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List
J D Riley
C M Worrall
A Jones
P Walker