

MIR. ~~SALIE~~

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

1974 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: R V TELLINA: CRUISE 9a AND 9b

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

STAFF: C. N. Humphreys
M. L. White (Part a)
M. Macdonald (Part b)

DURATION:

Part a:	Left Lowestoft	0815 h 28 August
	Arrived Lowestoft	0915 h 6 September
Part b:	Left Lowestoft	0815 h 9 September
	Arrived Grimsby	1130 h 24 September

All times are Greenwich Mean Time.

LOCALITY:

Southern North Sea

AIMS:

- 1 To carry out a survey of 0-group flatfish stocks in coastal waters, using a Riley 2 metre beam trawl, and working in conjunction with a shore-based push-net team (P Walker and T Watson) in the area Thames/Filey Bay.
- 2 To tag 1-group plaice within the survey area.
- 3 To compare catches made with a Riley 2 metre beam trawl, and the Zijlstra (Holland) 3 metre young fish beam trawl.
- 4 To make additional 2 metre beam trawl hauls within the survey area for J. D. Riley.

NARRATIVE:

Part a

TELLINA sailed from Lowestoft at 0815 h 28 August on passage to Sheerness and docked there at 2100 h.

During the next 3 days 2 m beam trawl hauls were made in the vicinity of Leigh Middle Bank, the Mid Shoebury Buoy, and the West Swin No 4 buoy.

On 1 September, after 4 hauls at the Mid Shoebury Buoy, work was abandoned, when a gale warning was given out. TELLINA steamed to Ipswich making 3 more hauls on the way.

Gales on 2 and 3 September prevented work on Sizewell Bank and the ship remained at Ipswich. Moderating winds on the 4th enabled the ship to reach Sizewell Bank but conditions were unsuitable, and after 1 haul TELLINA steamed for Lowestoft.

Gales on the 5th again prevented any work being carried out off Sizewell, but on 6 September it was possible to make two hauls in sheltered water off Lowestoft.

TELLINA docked at Lowestoft at 0915 h ending this part of the cruise.

Part b

TELLINA sailed from Lowestoft at 0815 h 9 September and spent the day working on Sizewell Bank, where, on the following day, increasing winds caused the work to be abandoned at 1130 h. Again on 11th, after steaming offshore it was decided that work at Sizewell would not be possible. Further work in this area was postponed, as it was thought necessary to work in the Humber area, only during neap tides.

TELLINA left Lowestoft at 0800 h 12 September and steamed to the Humber, making 4 hauls off Wells on passage, and dropped anchor at 1930 h.

During 13 and 14 September, working from Grimsby, hauls were made at various positions in the Humber, where catches of 0-group flatfish were noticeably low.

TELLINA left Grimsby at 0500 h 15 September and steamed for Boston, making 4 hauls off Mablethorpe on passage. Here catches were greater than in the Humber, but echo sounder failure terminated this work and TELLINA docked at Boston at 1630 h.

On 16 September TELLINA laid at Boston for repairs to be carried out on the echo sounder and additional codends and covers were received from Lowestoft by road.

On 17 September work commenced in the Wash off the Northwest edge of Long Sand Bank using both the 2 metre beam trawl and a push net; similar work was carried out off the south-east edge of the same bank on the 18th.

On 19 September TELLINA returned to work the Mablethorpe Ground and afterwards steamed to Grimsby. This work was continued on the 20th, but was curtailed by a gale forecast, and the ship returned to Grimsby.

Strong winds on the 21st restricted work to the Humber Estuary, where hauls on a ground fished 8 days earlier, gave noticeably larger catches.

On the 22nd an attempt was made to continue work in the Humber but strong cross winds made this impossible and TELLINA docked at Grimsby at 1000 h.

Owing to continuing strong to gale force winds no further work was possible and the cruise was terminated at Grimsby on 24 September, when the scientific staff returned to Lowestoft by rail.

RESULTS

1 A total of 138 10-minute hauls were carried out either with a Riley 2 metre beam trawl, or a push net; these are tabulated below:

	Date	Position	Depth Range in metres	No of Hauls
a) Thames Area				
	29.8.74	Leigh Middle Bank	3 - 6	14
	30.8.74	Mid Shoebury Buoy	10 - 8	10
	1.9.74	" " "	8 - 6	4
	31.8.74	West Swin No 4	17 - 15	10
	29-31.8.74	Exploratory Hauls		2
b) Sizewell Bank Area				
	9.9.74	Sizewell No 7	10	10
	9.9.74	Sizewell No 8	6	5
	10.9.74	" "	6	5
c) Humber Area				
	13.9.74	Haile Sand	6 - 5	10
	14.9.74	Bull Sand Fort	7 - 12	7
	21.9.74	Haile Sand	7 - 10	10
	13-14.9.74	Exploratory Hauls		8
d) Wash Area				
	17.9.74	N W Long Sand	14 - 10	10
	17.9.74	" " " Push Net	0 - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	5
	18.9.74	S E Long Sand	3 - 8	10
	18.9.74	" " " Push Net	0 - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	8
e) Mablethorpe Area				
	19.9.74	Off Mablethorpe	5 - 4	5
	20.9.74	" "	5 - 7	5

Owing to a shortage of time, due to bad weather, the number of hauls at some of the above positions was curtailed, and one deep station off Sizewell Bank was omitted completely.

2 A total of 602 plaice were tagged, some of which were probably from year classes earlier than 1973.

The distribution of the numbers released by areas were as follows:

Thames Area	117	Sizewell Area	43
Mablethorpe Area	361	Humber Area	81

All the above fish were taken from the by-catch of the O-group survey.

The best catches were taken from the Mablethorpe area where yields of 45-48 fish were frequently obtained from a 10 minute haul using the 2 metre beam trawl.

3 An attempt to do this work was planned at the end of Part 2 of the cruise. Unfortunately this was not possible due to loss of working time on the O-group survey.

4 18 of the 26 proposed stations for J D Riley were sampled, the remainder being omitted, either owing to lack of available time, or roughness of the sea bed at the suggested positions.

C N Humphreys
4 October 1974

SEEN IN DRAFT: A P (Skipper)

INITIALLED: A J L

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List

Mr Humphreys
Mr White
Mr Macdonald