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

1976 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV TELLINA: CRUISE 9

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

STAFF

A M Watson
T J Hulme

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1000 h 25 June
Arrived Lowestoft 2335 h 14 July
All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY

English Channel

AIMS

1. To carry out a trawl survey for demersal species, between longitudes $0^{\circ}10'E$ and $0^{\circ}20'W$ and between the coast and $50^{\circ}30'N$.
2. To carry out a trawl survey between longitudes $3^{\circ}15'W$ and $3^{\circ}40'W$ and between the coast and $50^{\circ}10'N$.

NARRATIVE

TELLINA sailed from Lowestoft at 1000 h 25 June, and after an unsuccessful attempt to recover an anchor lost the previous trip, steamed to Newhaven, two trawl hauls being carried out before docking at 1100 h 26 June. Between 27-29 June a further 18 hauls were worked, completing the first survey. TELLINA then steamed west, and after recovering a small fibreglass dinghy seen floating adrift, docked at Southampton at 1600 h 29 June. Sailing from Southampton at 0515 h the next day TELLINA docked at Weymouth at 1445 h in increasing winds. After an unfavourable forecast the next morning the staff returned to Lowestoft for the mid-trip break.

TELLINA left Weymouth at 2245 h 5 July and docked at Brixham 1415 h 6 July, after completing 4 hauls of the Second Survey. Working from Brixham, a further 16 hauls were carried out, 9 of which had not been worked previously and the Second Survey was completed on 9 July. After leaving Brixham at 0745 h 10 July and docking at Weymouth and Southampton, TELLINA reached Newhaven at 1615 h 12 July. The bobbin groundrope was replaced with a bosom groundrope and 5 hauls from the first survey repeated, one in each depth strata. After leaving Newhaven at 0430 h 14 July, TELLINA docked at Lowestoft 2335 h.

RESULTS

1. A total of 20 hauls of 30 minutes duration were made using the bobbin groundrope, 4 in each of the depth zones - 0-10 m, 10-20 m, 20-30 m, 30-50 m and 50-70 m. These were all repeats of tows made during TELLINA 4/76 and 7/76. All fish were identified, counted, and measured, and otolith samples taken from whiting, poor cod, pout whiting, gurnard, plaice, sole, and lemon sole.

The most numerous demersal species caught were poor cod (340), whiting (263), dab (254) and plaice (77). Other species recorded were - pout whiting, red gurnard, grey gurnard, dragonet, red mullet, black bream, goby, lesser weever, john dory, sole, lemon sole, turbot, solenette, lesser spotted dogfish and R. clavata and Montagui. The only pelagic fish caught were sprats (1855) and horse mackerel (5).

The majority of poor cod and whiting bath came from one haul at 30-50 m, 65 plaice (all less than 20 cm) from one haul at 0-10 m, and 1829 sprats from one haul at 10-20 m.

The repeat tows later in the trip using the bosom groundrope produced more flatfish and dragonets than with the bobbins, but problems with gear coming fast, and strong tides prevented any real comparison.

2. The fishing gear and treatment of catches in the Brixham survey were the same as off Newhaven - 20 tows in all, 4 in each depth zone. Poor cod (8662), whiting (194) and dabs (146) were again the most numerous demersal species. Others occurring were pout whiting, red gurnard, grey gurnard, plaice, sole, dragonet, john dory, black bream, solenette, goby, flounder, thick back sole, pollack, five-bearded rockling, greater pipe-fish and a single red-band fish.

The majority of poor cod came in a single haul of 4½ baskets from 20-30 m, this haul also taking the largest number of horse mackerel (45). A few sprats and sandeels were the only other pelagic fish taken.

A photographic record was made of the fish and benthos from each haul.

A Watson
30 July 1976

INITIALLED AJL

DISTRIBUTION :

Basic List	D I (SW)	Southern SFC
A M Watson	Kent and Sussex SFC	Sussex SFC
T J Hulme	Cornwall SFC	
D I (SE)	Devon SFC	