

Miss Howard

Not to be quoted without reference to the writer

R. V. TELLINA

Report for Cruise 10/1968

Staff: D. W. R. Rout
M. Macdonald

Duration

1045 hours 15 May -

1730 hours 24 May

All times are BST

Aims

1. To continue fecundity studies within the ray survey area off the north Norfolk coast.
2. To collect blood samples for Dr. R. M. E. Parkhouse of the National Institute of Medical Research.
3. To obtain live Raia montagui for tank experiments.
4. To release surface and sea bed drifters for Mr. Riley off Hopton, Winterton and Bacton.

Narrative

TELLINA sailed from Lowestoft at 1045 hours, 15 May. Surface and sea bed drifters were released off Hopton, Winterton and Bacton, for Mr. Riley and bottom temperatures were taken off Bacton for Mr. Ellet.

Fishing commenced at 0700 hours 16 May using the standard 8 fm trawl in 8 fathoms of water at a position 2 miles east of Wells. Four hauls were made, the bulk of the catch consisted of Raia clavata (and one small immature Raia montagui) with small whiting, dabs and soles as the by-catch. Radio contact was made with "Remus" owned by Mr. G. Legget and three other boats fishing in this area.

Unfortunately weather deteriorated and TELLINA made for a position near Kings Lynn on 17 May. Two hauls were made between the Sunk and Woolpack buoy with the "rocker" trawl with no success, and thereafter the standard 8 fm trawl was used. A further six mature Raia clavata, were caught in three hauls, before making for Kings Lynn as the weather worsened.

TELLINA sheltered from N.E. gales at Kings Lynn until 21 May, when further hauls were made between the Sunk and Woolpack Buoy. Starting at 0615 hours on 21 May six hourly hauls produced a total of seven mature female and four mature male Raia clavata, with dabs, soles and whiting as the by-catch.

Fishing continued in this area on 22 May when ten female and three male Raia clavata were caught in eight hourly hauls, and again on 23 May when 12 female and 2 male Raia clavata were caught in 8 hauls.

TELLINA left Kings Lynn at 0400 hours on 24 May with a S. E. gale imminent. One haul was made in Brancaster Hole at 0730 hours producing only small dabs and whiting and similar results were obtained from a haul off Wells-on-Sea. TELLINA arrived at Lowestoft at 1730 hours, 24 May.

Results

1. As a result of 35 hauls, 65 Raia clavata were caught, 51 of these were mature females (minimum size - 78 cm), 9 fish carried soft partly formed capsules, 1 fish had one soft and one hard capsule and 38 fish had hard fully formed capsules, many partly extruded. The remaining 13 male Raia clavata were also mature (minimum size - 68 cm).

One immature female Raia montagui was caught. Length 25 cm.

Samples of ovaries, smears from shell glands, and vertebral sections were taken, and cloaca depth and stomach contents observed. Most of the fish had been feeding on small crabs and shrimps.

2. Blood samples were collected from rays and stored at 0°C in 1% Merthiolate. A total of 20 samples was taken, and despatched to Dr. R. M. E. Parkhouse of the National Institute for Medical Research on 22 May.

3. No live R. montagui were caught in the area.

4. Surface and sea bed drifters were released for Mr. Riley and bottom temperatures taken for Mr. Ellet.

D. W. R. Rout

29/5/68

Seen in draft: WB

Initialed: ACB

Distribution:

Basic list plus the following:-

D. W. R. Rout
M. Macdonald
Mr. G. Legget, West House,
Wells-on-Sea, Norfolk.