

MR. SALES.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE FISHERIES AND FOOD
FISHERIES LABORATORY LOWESTOFT SUFFOLK ENGLAND

1973 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: A Chartered commercial vessels
B RV TELLINA: CRUISE /10
C Shore-based push-netting

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

A CHARTERED COMMERCIAL VESSELS

STAFF: Part 1 D J Symonds
L Emerson
Part 2 J D Riley
C N Humphreys

DURATION:

Part 1 3-19 September
Part 2 26 September-10 October

LOCALITY:

Inshore from Berwick to River Humber

B RV TELLINA

STAFF: Part 1 J D Riley
C N Humphreys
M Roberts (Student) - Part time
Part 2 D J Symonds
P Scholes

DURATION:

Part 1 6-20 September
Part 2 25 September-6 October

LOCALITY:

Inshore from River Humber to North Foreland.

C SHORE-BASED PUSH NETTING

STAFF: P Walker
C J Garrod

DURATION:

18 September-5 October

LOCALITY:

Filey to North Foreland

AIMS:

1. To determine the inshore distribution and abundance of young fish by 2-metre beam trawl and push-net.
2. To sample for pelagic fish eggs and larvae using a 50 cm high-speed townet and/or neuston net, when time and conditions permit.
3. To catch young pelagic fish using a prototype high-speed midwater net (TELLINA).
4. To make comparative tows using 2-metre and 4-metre beam trawls (TELLINA).
5. To collect samples of 0-group and I-group plaice for Mr K Wilson (Burnham).
6. To collect samples of 0-group plaice and sole from the River Humber area for Mr N Milner (NERC Student).

NARRATIVE:

A CHARTERED COMMERCIAL VESSELS

Staff and equipment travelled by road to the north-east coast on 3 September and beam trawl and push-net sampling was carried out during the next 15 days from Sunderland, Blyth, Amble and Seahouses. After a mid-survey break from 20 to 25 September and a change in personnel, sampling along the Yorkshire coast was carried out from Filey, Bridlington, Grimsby, Whitby and Redcar. The return to Lowestoft was made on 10 October.

B RV TELLINA

TELLINA left Lowestoft at 0830 h 6 September for the northern limit of the survey area, anchoring overnight (6-7 September) in the River Humber. After sampling both fish and plankton on the Yorkshire coast on 7 September, the following 4 days were spent in the Humber area although work was only done on $2\frac{1}{2}$ days because of adverse weather. On 11 September TELLINA sailed for Boston and the next 4 days were spent in the Wash area, but again work was limited to $2\frac{1}{2}$ days due to weather and other factors. On 16 September, TELLINA continued to work in the Wash area and proceeded to spend the night of 16-17 September at anchor off the north Norfolk coast. Trawl and plankton sampling were resumed as the vessel worked back to Lowestoft, docking at 1530h 17 September. Of the remaining three days one was lost due to bad weather and the other two were spent sampling Sizewell Bank and the Newcome and Scroby Sands, working on a daily basis out of Lowestoft.

After a midcruise break and change of personnel, TELLINA sailed from Lowestoft at 1045 h 25 September and proceeded to the Thames Estuary. Two days were spent sampling the outer estuary but persistent strong winds stopped work from midday 27 September until 1 October. Inshore stations and the stations up the River Thames were worked during the next 3 days but fog prevented sampling on the 5 October. After working in the outer River Crouch and River Blackwater on the 6 October, passage was made to Lowestoft docking at 2000 h the same day.

Beam trawling in the Rivers Crouch and Roach on 18 October by RV JASSA and in the Kings Lynn area on 17 October by commercial vessel completed the survey in this area.

C SHORE-BASED PUSHNETTING

The shore-based pushnetting team commenced sampling on 18 September and covered the area from Filey to North Foreland. Thirty stations were sampled although many more sites were investigated but found to be unsuitable for pushnetting. Staff returned to the Laboratory on 5 October.

RESULTS:

AIM 1.

The young fish survey of the east coast of England was successfully completed and a total of 289 trawling stations was occupied and 65 shore sites were sampled by pushnet. Catches of fish were generally small. 0-group plaice were found throughout the sampling area, the largest numbers being taken in the Filey Bay area. 0-group sole were not caught north of Filey Bay, whereas 0-group turbot were taken in most shallow-water pushnet hauls from Lowestoft northwards.

AIM 2.

Plankton samples for pelagic fish eggs and larvae were taken at 10 stations with the 50 cm naked high-speed tow-net.

AIMS 3 and 4.

Time and conditions did not allow these aims to be completed.

AIMS 5.

Samples of plaice for Mr K Wilson were collected in selected localities and preserved in formalin.

AIMS 6.

Samples of 0-group plaice and sole were collected in the River Humber area, deep-frozen and stored at the Grimsby Fishery Office.

GENERAL:

The help and co-operation of the skippers and crews of the chartered commercial vessels is gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are also due to the District Inspectors of Fisheries and their staff who were involved in the preliminary arrangements for this survey.

D J Symonds
1 November 1973

INITIALLED A J L

DISTRIBUTION

Basic List

Mr J D Riley

Mr Symonds

Mr Humphreys

Mr Scholes

Mr Emerson

Mr C J Garrod

Mr Walker

Mr Roberts

Sea Fisheries Committees: Northumberland

North Eastern

Eastern

Kent and Essex