

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

1976 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORTS A. RV TELLINA: CRUISE 11

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

STAFF

J D Riley 2-10 September  
J C Hill (Student) 2-10 and 13-28 September  
C N Humphreys 13-28 September

DURATION

Sailed 0830 h 2 September  
Docked 1315 h 28 September

LOCALITY

East Coast of England from River Humber to North Foreland

B. Shore based Pushnetting

STAFF

T Watson  
R B Cross 1-10 September  
W G Parnell 13 September  
T Ellinor 21-22 September

DURATION

1-22 September

LOCALITY

Hunstanton to North Foreland

AIMS A and B

1. To carry out a survey of 0 and 1-group flatfish stocks using the standard 2 m beamtrawl and 1½ m push net.
2. To tag 1-group sole in the Thames
3. To preserve all fish from selected stations in the River Humber and Boston Deepes for P Walker (F.S.M.1).
4. To sample a grid of stations in the Thames Estuary in order to investigate the seasonal movements of 0 and 1-group sole, plaice and gadoids.

## NARRATIVE

A. During the period 2-8 September RV TELLINA was employed on Aims 1, 2 and 4 in the coastal area from south of Lowestoft to the North Foreland. No work was possible on 9 September due to gales and on the 10th, following very poor forecasts, the mid-cruise break was taken early, the boat being left in dock at Ipswich. Staff returned to Ipswich on 13 September, and work on Aims 1 and 4 was resumed. On the 15th TELLINA steamed to Lowestoft but sampling en route was not possible due to fresh N.E. winds. Sampling was continued from Lowestoft on the 16 September and on the 17th. TELLINA began sampling to the north of Lowestoft, lying overnight off the Lincolnshire coast so that work could be carried out in the area before docking at Grimsby the following day. During the next two days work was completed in the Humber and on 21 September TELLINA worked towards Boston, from where the Wash area was surveyed during the following four days, two days being lost due to bad weather. On 26 September TELLINA sampled en route for Lowestoft and on the 27 and 28th sampling from the home port was carried out. TELLINA docked at Lowestoft at 1315 h on 28 September.

B. Push Net Survey. Sampling commenced on the evening low tide of 1 September at Hunstanton and Brancaster, but a strong northerly wind prevented work on the Norfolk coast. Lowestoft was sampled on 3 September and Walberswick on the 4th. Sampling along the Kent coast was completed by the 7 September and along the Essex coast by 10 September. The disrupted sampling on the Norfolk coast was not completed until 21 September due to further bad weather and transport problems.

## RESULTS A and B

1. 117 Beam trawl samples and 30 pushnet samples were taken, sufficient to give a satisfactory measure of the 0 and 1-group plaice and sole stocks of the area. Preliminary results indicate a strong 1976 year-class for sole in the Thames area and high catches of 0-group turbot over the area surveyed.
2. Only 21 1-group sole were tagged due to adverse weather restricting working days.
3. Samples of fish from the River Humber and Boston Deepes areas were preserved and returned to the Laboratory for P Walker (F.S.M.1).
4. 11 of the 17 stations on the grid in the Thames designed to measure the seasonal movements of demersal fish were sampled satisfactorily. Bad weather prevented the sampling of the offshore, deeper stations. This grid will be sampled periodically throughout the winter period.

John D Riley

SEEN IN DRAFT A Pearson

INITIALED AJL

## DISTRIBUTION

Basic List	T Watson
J D Riley	R B Cross
J C Hill	W G Pamell
C N Humphreys	T Ellinor