

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

1978 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV TELLINA: CRUISE 11
(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF

T W Boon (NIC)
S Warnes

DURATION

Sailed from Lowestoft 1000 h 10 November
Docked Lowestoft 1420 h 30 November

LOCALITY

Thames Estuary

AIMS

1. To investigate the distribution and abundance of adult herring of the Thames Estuary stock in areas not covered by the present commercial fishery.
2. To investigate the distribution and abundance of juvenile herring of the Thames Estuary stock, particularly in the area of the commercial whitebait fishery.

NARRATIVE

After leaving Lowestoft TELLINA rendezvoused with GLIONE 14 miles off Orford Ness where four 'winkie' lights were passed over. Because of this detour there was insufficient time for trawling and passage was made for the south side of the Thames Estuary where, due to thick fog, the vessel was anchored for the night in Margate Roads. During the next nine days, four of which were lost due to bad weather, working from Ramsgate and Gillingham, twelve stations using the Boris midwater sprat trawl were completed in the southern outer reaches and the inner reaches of the Estuary. One abortive attempt was made at using drift nets in the Medway. On 20 November passage was made from Gillingham to Ipswich and one trawl station completed in the East Swin. TELLINA docked at the Suffolk Yacht Harbour on 21 November and the mid-trip break was taken until 24 November when the ship moved to Felixstowe for the night.

After this, working from Ipswich, only two days gave suitable conditions when two trawl stations were made in the Wallet and two in the northern outer reaches of the Estuary. With poor weather forecasts and unworkable conditions TELLINA returned to Lowestoft on 30 November.

RESULTS

Seventeen trawl stations and one drift net station were completed giving a sparse coverage of the Thames Estuary. Reasonable catches of adult herring were made in the Leigh Channel, The Warp and the East Swin and of juvenile herring in the south end of the Knock Deep, the Leigh Channel and The Warp.

SEEN IN DRAFT: A Pearson

INITIALED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List

T W Boon

S Warnes