

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

1976 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV TELLINA: CRUISE 13

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

STAFF

T. Watson	2-11 November
T J Hulme	} 15-25 November
M L White	

DURATION

Left Lowestoft 1115 h 3 November
Arrived Lowestoft 2015 h 25 November

All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY

English Channel

AIMS

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

NARRATIVE

After being delayed for a day with bad weather followed by fog, TELLINA sailed from Lowestoft at 1115 h 3 November and steamed to Newhaven. Two trawl hauls were made on 4 November before TELLINA docked at Newhaven where she remained weatherbound until 10 November. Fine weather on 10 and part of 11 November allowed 12 more hauls to be made before the weather broke again. Staff returned to Lowestoft on the evening of 11 November for the mid-trip break.

After losing a day for bad weather, the five offshore hauls were completed on 17 November. The last haul of the first survey was made on 18 November before TELLINA began her passage to Weymouth, docking overnight at Portsmouth. TELLINA sailed from Portsmouth at 0700 h 19 November and completed three hauls of the second survey before docking at Weymouth at 1615 h. Working out of Weymouth, a further nine hauls were made on 20 and 21 November. The remaining six hauls of the survey, in the 30-40 m and 40-50 m zones, were not attempted because very strong tides running at the time prevented the gear from fishing on the bottom.

TELLINA sailed from Weymouth at 0515 h 22 November to begin her passage back to Lowestoft. Strong winds in the Channel and the North Sea prevented a quick passage and TELLINA called at Portsmouth, Newhaven and Ramsgate before docking at Lowestoft at 2015 h 25 November.

RESULTS

1. A total of 20 hauls of 30 minutes duration were made, four in each of the depth zones - 0-10, 10-20, 20-30, 30-50 and 50-70 m. These, apart from one in the 0-10 m zone, were all repeats of tows made during TELLINA 4/76, 7/76 and 9/76. All fish were identified, counted and measured, and otolith samples were taken from sole, brill, lemon sole, plaice and whiting.

The most numerous demersal species were poor cod (3372), pout whiting (280), whiting (163), dabs (53) and sole (29). Other demersal species recorded were: lemon sole, plaice, brill, flounders, R. clavata, R. microcellata, spurdog, lesser and greater spotted dogfish, tope, red, grey and tub gurnards, red mullet, pollack, bass, black bream, john dory, dragonettes, goby, solenettes, bullheads, lesser weavers and pipefish. Pelagic species recorded were: sprats (123), sand smelts (53), horse mackerel (28), sandeels (3) and herring (1).

Poor cod, pout whiting, sole and whiting were found in all four depth zones, whereas plaice and dabs were found only in depths less than 20 m.

2. The fishing gear and treatment of catches in the Weymouth survey were the same as off Newhaven, but only 12 tows were made as follows: 0-10 m (2), 10-20 m (4), 20-30 m (4), 30-40 m (1) and 40-50 m (1). Poor cod (865), pout whiting (817), whiting (13) and R. clavata (8) were the most numerous demersal species. Others recorded were: sole, plaice, dabs, flounders, R. montagui, john dory, dragonettes and goby. Pelagic species taken were sprats (161), sand smelts (19) and horse mackerel (17) with one pilchard and a few sandeels and anchovy.

The majority of poor cod (642) and pout whiting (802) came in a single haul from the 0-10 m zone. No fish, apart from 21 poor cod, were caught in depths greater than 30 m. Sole, plaice, dabs and flounders were found only in depths less than 20 m.

T Watson
T J Hulme
(Naturalists-in-Charge)

2 December 1976

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