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R. V. TELLINA

Report for Cruise 13/1968

Part B

Staff: C. T. Macer  
T. W. Boon

Duration: 23rd - 29th July  
All times B.S.T.

Aim

To survey the Southern Bight for sandeels.

Narrative and Results

TELLINA sailed from Lowestoft at 1000 hours on 23 July and reached Dover at 2100 hours. The next day an attempt to work on the Varne was prevented by a heavy north-easterly swell. On 25 July, trawl hauls were made on the Bullock Bank, Le Colbart and the Varne. All these bnks yielded a few Ammodytes marinus (the commercially important species) but the greatest catch was only forty-eight fish per hour. The bottom was very uneven on Le Colbart and the Varne and the trawl was liable to come fast.

On 26 July, an attempt was made to reach Sandettié but a strong north-easterly wind forced a return to Dover. With an improvement the next day, Sandettié was worked and a few specimens of A. marinus were caught; damage was sustained on the rather uneven bottom. The ship put into Ramsgate that night and left the following morning (28 July) to survey the North and South Falls, where only a few A. marinus were caught. TELLINA returned to Felixstowe and, on 29 July, surface and seabed drifters were dropped off Orford for Mr. Riley, before the Inner and Outer Gabbards and the Galloper were surveyed. The Outer Gabbard was the only bank to yield any A. marinus. At 1400 hrs a forecast of strong north-easterly winds was received so passage was made for Lowestoft which was reached at 1815 hours. An echo survey off Benacre Ness was made en route but traces were scarce.

Conclusion

It has been shown that the commercially important sandeel A. marinus is present on the Banks in the Southern Bight area but the combination of spring tides and strong north-easterly winds prevented any quantitative assessments being made.

(C. T. Macer),  
5.8.68.

Initialled: H. A. C.  
A. C. B.

Distribution:

Basic list, plus the following:

Mr. Macer  
Mr. Boon