

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

1976 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV TELLINA: CRUISE 14

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

STAFF

R Millner
R Carter

DURATION

7-15 December

LOCALITY

Off Southwold, southern North Sea

AIMS

1. To sample mobile epibenthos on the Southwold dredging ground.
2. To sample gut contents of demersal fish species.
3. To carry out a bathymetric survey using echo sounder.
4. To photograph the sea-bed using underwater TV and still cameras.

NARRATIVE

Bad weather prevented working on all but one morning of the first two days, but on 9 and 10 December Mr J Muir and Mr D Howick from Marconi Ltd joined TELLINA for an underwater TV survey of the Southwold dredging ground. It was hoped to compare the performance of a new Marconi camera with the one used at present by the laboratory. Visibility was very poor off Southwold and the survey resumed in slightly clearer water off Corton.

The remainder of the cruise was spent off Southwold obtaining beam-trawl samples of epibenthos and gut samples of fish caught on the dredging grounds. Two periods of slack water were used on the last two days to photograph the sea-bed with a 35 mm camera mounted on a rigid frame.

RESULTS

1. Epibenthos on the dredging ground and control area were sampled by 3 hauls across each of 19 stations.
2. 89 stomachs of cod, whiting, pout whiting and skate were collected for analysis of gut contents.
3. The bathymetric survey was not completed within the time of the cruise.
4. Turbid water conditions made evaluation of the underwater TV system difficult, and no acceptable pictures were obtained by either camera on the Southwold ground. Off Corton, the Marconi camera displayed a very clear image of the sea-bed whilst the laboratory's camera was unable to distinguish sea-bed features

at all. Further trials will however be needed to compare their performances. The poor visibility prevented the 35 mm camera from obtaining useful photographs of the sea-bed.

R S Millner

21 December 1976

SEEN IN DRAFT A Pearson

INITIALLED AJL

DISTRIBUTION

Basic list
R S Millner
R Carter
I White (Burnham)
J Muir (Marconi-Elliott Ltd)
D Howick (Marconi-Elliott Ltd)