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R. V. TELLINA

Report for Cruise 15/1968

Staff: C. N. Humphreys
T. Watson

Duration: 11.00 hrs 4 September
18.00 hrs 12 September

Aims:

All times G.M.T.

1. To continue fecundity studies within the ray survey area off the north Norfolk coast.
2. To obtain small live or preserved gadoids for tank experiments if available within the survey area.
3. To tag all male and immature female rays.
4. To obtain blood samples for Dr. R.M.E. Parkhouse of National Institute for Medical Research.

Narrative

TELLINA sailed from Lowestoft at 1100 hours, 4 September and proceeded to the Wash where an anchorage was found for the night.

During the next two days 14 hauls were made using an 8 fathom trawl at positions surveyed in earlier cruises and extending over the inner, central and northern Wash areas to as far offshore as the Inner Dowsing. These hauls produced only 2 mature + rays.

The ship docked at Kings Lynn at 1830 hours, 6 September and laid there the following day to enable the cook to see a doctor and to re-provision for the remainder of the cruise.

The ship sailed on the morning tide of 8 September and, owing to the poor results already experienced, it was decided to fish off the north Norfolk coast where good catches had been obtained during earlier cruises. Fishing took place in this area during the following 3 days but 17 hauls produced only 4 mature female rays, all except one of which had terminated capsule production. It was therefore concluded that the main period of capsule production by rays in the Wash area had terminated, and that the remainder of the cruise should be spent fishing for rays, suitable for tagging, in the vicinity of the banks off the Norfolk coast.

The following two days were spent fishing between the Haisborough and Sizewell banks. Here too rays were scarce, 8 hauls producing only 14 rays suitable for tagging and 3 mature female rays, all of which had ceased to produce capsules.

TELLINA docked at Lowestoft at 1800 hours, 12 September.

Results

1. Dissection of the 6 mature female rays obtained from the Wash area revealed that only 3 were still producing capsules. The small quantities of large ovarian eggs in each of these fish suggested that capsule production would soon cease. Each of the three mature female rays obtained outside the Wash was also found to have terminated capsule production.
2. A total of 37 male & immature female rays were tagged, 23 coming from the Wash and 14 from the Norfolk & Suffolk bank area.
3. Blood samples were taken from 9 rays and preserved in a solution of 1% merthiolate for Dr. R.M.E. Parkhouse of the National Institute for Medical Research.
4. No small live gadoids were obtained, but a number of dead ones were preserved in formalin.

C. N. Humphreys.
17.9.68.

Seen in draft: A.J.L.

Initialled: W.B.

Distribution:

Basic list, plus the following:
Mr. Humphreys (2)
Mr. T. Watson
Mr. G. Legget, Wells-on-Sea