

Provisional: Not to be quoted without reference to the author

R. V. TELLINA

Report for Cruise 19B/1968

Staff: B. C. Bedford      Duration: 4-19 December  
C. N. Humphreys  
M. W. Easey

Aims

1. To tag large cod in the long line fishery off Folkestone.
2. To tag thornback rays (R. clavata) if reasonable numbers of these are caught.
3. To obtain blood samples from cod rejected for tagging.
4. To try to catch mackerel by 'feathering' in order to obtain blood samples from these.

Narrative

TELLINA left Ipswich at 1300 hrs on 4th December and arrived at Dover at 2100 hrs. Sailings were made each day between 5th December and 14th December inclusive with only one day, the 9th, lost to bad weather. On 15th December a major change in the weather pattern resulted in strong to gale force winds from the north and east and no further work was possible for the remainder of the cruise.

Inexperience with this type of fishing resulted in fewer hooks being shot in the early part of the cruise than had been hoped. Some difficulties were experienced from time to time in hauling due mainly to the rough nature of the bottom and the strong tides. It was unfortunate that bad weather intervened at the time when handling efficiency was improving and when tidal conditions should have given good catches.

It was found impossible to recover the lines shot on 14th December and arrangements were made by the skipper for them to be hauled by a Dover fisherman when tides and weather permitted. TELLINA returned to Lowestoft during a brief lull on 19th December, arriving at 2000 hrs.

Results

1. Large cod were caught on each occasion that the lines were shot and 140 were tagged. The proportion of the fish caught which was judged to be suitable for tagging was very variable and some were observed to dive strongly, only to surface a few moments later.
2. Only one thornback ray was caught.
3. Blood samples for Dr. Jamieson were obtained from 55 rejected cod.

4. Feathering was tried on the Varne Bank and in 15 fathoms closer inshore. Cod, whiting, one garfish and a single herring were caught but no mackerel.

Miscellaneous

Bulk collection of blood from tope, spurdogfish, nursehounds and cod were made for the Chester Beatty Research Institute at the request of Dr. Purdom.

B. C. Bedford  
20.12.68.

Initialed: H. A. C.

Distribution:

Basic list, plus the following:

Mr. Bedford  
Mr. Hunphreys  
Mr. Easey