

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

1977 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: N/O THALASSA: CRUISE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1977

STAFF: J Gueguen ISTPM Lorient 4-17 December
A Maucorps " Boulogne 30 November - 8 December
J Quero " Rochelle
J Labastie " Lorient
B Kergoat " "
M Meillat " "
Melle du Buit College de France a Concarneau
Dr P Borceau
I L Davies MAFF 1-16 December
B C Mumford ")
Skr W J Saxby ") 1- 8 "

DURATION:

Depart Nantes 30 November
Arrive Brest 8 December
Depart Brest 10 "
Arrive Nantes 17 "

(All times are GMT)

LOCALITY Bristol Channel, Irish Sea

AIMS

- 1 To carry out a gadoid survey in the Bristol Channel and Irish Sea.
- 2 To allow MAFF personnel to observe the rigging and handling of 36/47 GOV trawl.

NARRATIVE

MAFF staff boarded THALASSA by pilot boat at Newlyn at 1830 h 1 December. Trawling was carried out in the Eddystone area on 2 December before the vessel steamed towards Brest.

J Gueguen was picked up from the Brest pilot boat at 0230 h 4 December and the vessel then proceeded to a position south of the Scilly Isles where 3 trawl hauls were made. More trawling was carried out in the Bristol Channel until 1300 h 7 December before course was set for Brest, the vessel docking at 0800 h 8 December. Messrs Maucorps, Mumford and Saxby left the vessel and returned to their respective homes. Sailing was delayed until 1900 h 10 December and after a rough passage due to a southerly gale, trawling recommenced at Jones Bank at 1245 h 11 December. Trawl hauls were made in the remainder of the Bristol Channel and in Cardigan Bay before moving across to the west side of the Irish Sea.

The trawl winch broke down on the second haul and as replacing the hydraulic motor did not rectify the fault the fishing gear was successfully recovered using the auxiliary winches and the cruise was terminated. Mr Davies was put ashore at Newlyn by pilot boat at 1200 h 16 December, the vessel then proceeded to her home port of Nantes.

RESULTS

- 1 33 valid half hour hauls were made during the hours of daylight with the 36/47 GOV trawl in the western English Channel, the Bristol Channel and Irish Sea. Salinity and bottom temperatures were taken at most stations. A sample of the sea bottom was collected at each trawl haul with a small cylindrical dredge which was attached to the wing end of the trawl. Echo sounder transects were made between stations and at a night. Copies of all the data collected during the cruise were presented to MAFF at the end.
- 2 Extensive notes and measurements of the rigging and the shooting and hauling of the GOV trawl were made, and still and cine films were shot.

My colleagues and I would like to record our thanks to the scientists, officers and crew of THALASSA for the hospitality and help received during the cruise.

I L Davies
31 January 1978

INTLLD: A J L

DISTRIBUTION

Basic list

I L Davies
B C Mumford
Skipper W J Saxby
M Gee, IMER, Plymouth
Cl Maurin, Le Directeur, ISTEPM, Nantes
J Gueguen, ISTEPM, Lorient
Cdt Jamet, ISTEPM, N/O THALASSA

