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

CRUISE REPORT: N O THALASSA

25 November-13 December 1981

Celtic Sea - Groundfish Survey

NARRATIVE:

S Flatman joined THALASSA by Newlyn Pilot Boat on the evening of 25 November. During the next eight days the standard sites in ICES Division VIIa, VIIf and VIIg were sampled, with the exception of the 28th when south-westerly gales forced the vessel to shelter in the lee of Lundy Isle. The mid-trip break was taken in Dublin on 4 and 5 December.

THALASSA worked the remaining sites in VIIa, VIIf and VIIg, carrying out repeat hauls at several sites in these areas, before steaming south to complete three hauls south and west of the Scilly Isles on 12 December. On 13 December one haul was made off Plymouth before THALASSA was forced to seek shelter in Plymouth sound. Strong southerly winds prevented the Pilot boat from reaching the vessel until late afternoon, when S Flatman was taken off.

RESULTS:

- 1 36 X 30 minute tows were completed at the sites used in previous years. In addition, hauls at 11 sites were repeated for comparisons. Only one '0' group cod was caught for a total of 47 hauls, the lowest number since the surveys began.
- 2 Cod and whiting otolith samples were taken for analysis at Lorient. 120 whiting otoliths were brought back to Lowestoft for Anglo-French age determination comparisons.
- 3 Live specimens including cod, whiting, spurdog and plaice were collected for the aquarium at la Rochelle.
- 4 Otoliths from a wide variety of species were collected for fossil otolith comparisons. (Paris Ichthyological Museum).
- 5 Otoliths from 90 Lophius piscatorius, 2 Lophius budegassa and 20 megrims were collected for age determination at Lowestoft.
- 6 Stomach contents of 116 whiting and 105 cod from division VIIa, and 40 Lophius piscatorius from divisions VIIa, VIIf and VIIg were examined. (Lowestoft).

A typed set of station positions, water temperatures, weights and measurements of species caught was given to S Flatman at the end of the survey.

S Flatman  
1 March 1982

seen in draft: KB

Distribution: 40