

Provisional: not to be quoted without reference to the writer

R.V. CORELLA

Report for Cruise 5/1969

Staff

Duration

R. C. A. Bannister	12-24 March, 1969
A. E. Urquhart	
C. S. Myall	
C. L. Whiting	
T. Watson	

Aims:

1. Routine bottom trawl sampling of plaice populations in the southern and central North Sea.
2. Collection of gonads of plaice, cod and whiting for fecundity studies.
3. Collection of material for plaice maristic investigations.
4. Collection of dab samples for Mr. Lee (Hong Kong).
5. Collection of large cod for echo sounder experiments (Mr. Scholes).
6. Collection of live cod eggs (Dr. Greer Walker).
7. Collection of live fish as follows:-
 - (a) Ripe Borkum plaice (Dr. Purdom).
 - (b) Lemon sole and long rough dab (Mr. Riley).
 - (c) Small gadoids (Mr. Scholes).
 - (d) Plaice for Radiobiological Laboratory.
 - (e) Turbot (Mr. A. Jones).

Narrative:

CORELLA left Lowestoft at 1430 hours, 12 March and in gale conditions set course for the 'P' buoys. After an overnight steam at reduced speed CORELLA reached a position near buoy P2 by midday 13 March but was forced to dodge by continuing extreme conditions of easterly wind and swell. After dodging for 20 hours, radar breakdown and a malfunction in the gyro repeater system increased the additional hazard of poor visibility in snow showers, and with storm conditions forecast for the entire North Sea area it was decided to steam to IJmuiden for repairs and shelter. CORELLA berthed at 2000 hours, 14 March and remained weatherbound for the next four days, during which it was clear from radio contact with Lowestoft trawlers that the gales had suspended fishing on all grounds. On 19 March improved conditions enabled CORELLA to leave IJmuiden at 1200 hours, and the trawl was shot for the first

time at 0600 hours, 20 March at buoy P2. CORELLA was able to work for the remaining four days' of the cruise and made hauls in the following areas:-

P buoys	Tail End	Cleaver Bank	Silver Pit
White Bank	Clay Deep	Mud Hole	Southernmost Rough

The last haul was completed at 2000 hours, 23 March and CORELLA made a good passage to Lowestoft, berthing at 1300 hours 24 March.

Results

Fishing time was severely restricted by the prolonged easterly gales maintained by an intensive high pressure system stationary over Scandinavia for nearly a week, but the last four days of reasonable weather enabled CORELLA to accomplish a surprising amount of work.

1. Although fish were generally scarce following the effects of the weather the trawl survey was completed satisfactorily in the areas listed in the narrative.
2. Most of the round and flatfish caught were past their spawning peak so that only a small number of ripe gonads was collected.
3. This aim was deleted following the small catches of spawning fish.
4. Five stratified samples of dab were taken for Mr. Lee (Hong Kong).
5. Completed satisfactorily.
6. One artificial fertilization was attempted with two mature cod but for reasons unknown the eggs remained unfertilized and died. Attempts to obtain cod eggs from the sea by plankton net were also unsuccessful. The few fish eggs caught were clearly badly damaged.
7. Collection of live fish was severely affected by the weather since even when fish were found they were generally in very poor condition. However, it was possible to return a few ripe Borkum plaice for Dr. Purdom, some central North Sea plaice for the Radiobiological Laboratory and one turbot for Mr. A. Jones. As expected, the majority of the small gadoids failed to survive the transfer to deck tanks.
8. Following the easterly gales of this period, it will be interesting to observe their possible effect on the distribution of fish larvae.

R. C. A. Bannister
24.3.69

Initialled: AJL

Seen in draft: WC
CHS

Distribution:

Basic list, plus the following:-

R. C. A. Bannister
A. E. Urquhart
C. S. Myall
C. L. Whiting
T. Watson