

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

1994 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: ANGELLE MARIE 2/94

(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF: D Eaton
S Warnes
Miss J Greening

DURATION: 25 May-4 June 1994

LOCATION: Solent area and the Sussex, Dorset and Hants coast

AIMS:

1. To carry out a trawl survey for pre-recruit bass in the Solent area
2. To sample commercial landings of bass
3. To tag adolescent (32 cm+ total length) and older bass
4. To tag and release large bass surplus to requirements at Portsmouth Sea-Life Centre.

NARRATIVE:

Staff travelled to Portsmouth on 25 May and after making arrangements for the tagging and release of the large bass from the Portsmouth Sea-Life Centre, gear was readied aboard the ANGELLE MARIE at her moorings in Chichester Harbour. The survey commenced on 26 May and during the next five days 54 stations were successfully completed. Large bass were tagged and released at Southsea overnight on 1 June. The remaining time was spent in biological sampling, censusing the bass fleet between Poole and Selsey, and meeting with SFI staff before returning to Lowestoft on 4 June.

RESULTS:

1. A total of 929 bass were caught during the survey of which 20 were of legal landable size, and 65% were from the 1989 yearclass. Only one fish from the 1993 yearclass was caught. The 1991 yearclass was well represented in the catches taken inside the harbours and Southampton Water but the weakness of the 1990 yearclass was apparent in the low numbers of these fish throughout the survey area. Figures showing the length distributions and numbers at age of bass caught during the survey are appended at the end of this report. Although the catch rate outside the nursery areas was comparable with average values in previous years at 1.04 bass/min, the rate inside the nursery area was low at 1.13 bass/min compared with expected values in the range 3-4 bass/min in average years. A sample of commercial size bass was returned frozen to the Laboratory for pollution studies (A Franklin, Burnham).

2. Sampling of commercial catches of bass at merchants' premises yielded 184 scale samples and 492 fish measured.
3. A total of 87 bass in the length range 32-37 cm were tagged and released during the charter.
4. Thirty-two large bass from Plymouth Sea-Life Centre, length range 66-80 cm, at weights between 3.2 and 7.1 kg, were tagged using large Hallprint "T"-bar tags and released from Southsea seafront. The operation was filmed by a BBC local news team and broadcast the following day.

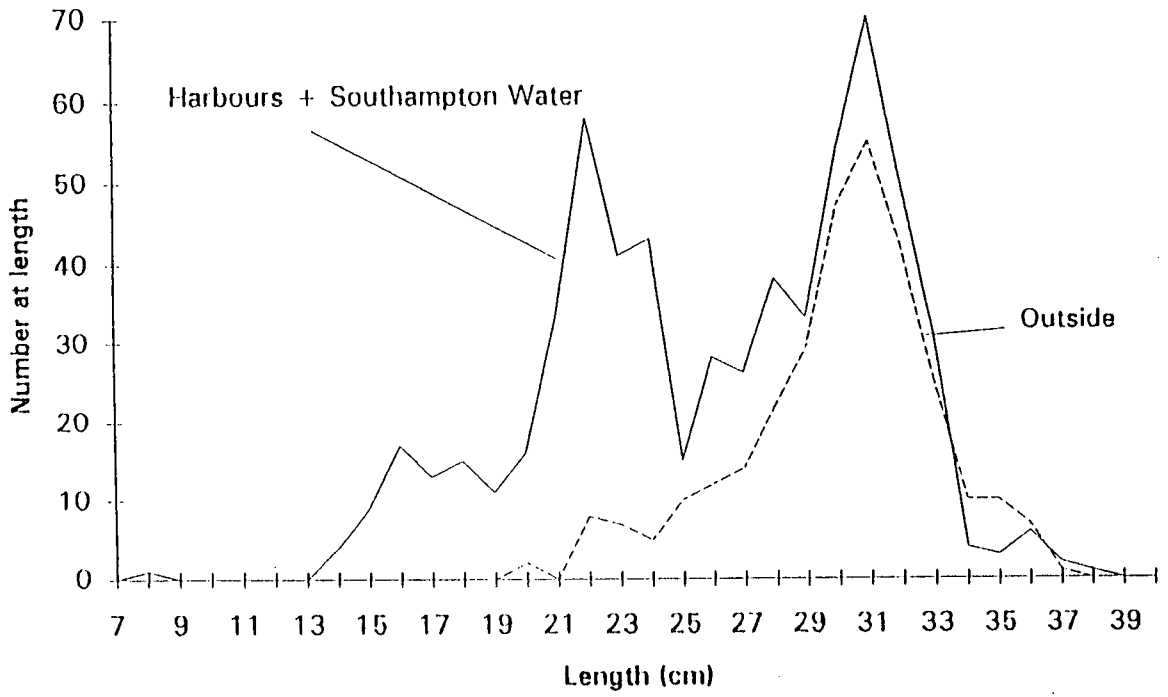
D Eaton
16 June 1994

INITIALLED: GPA

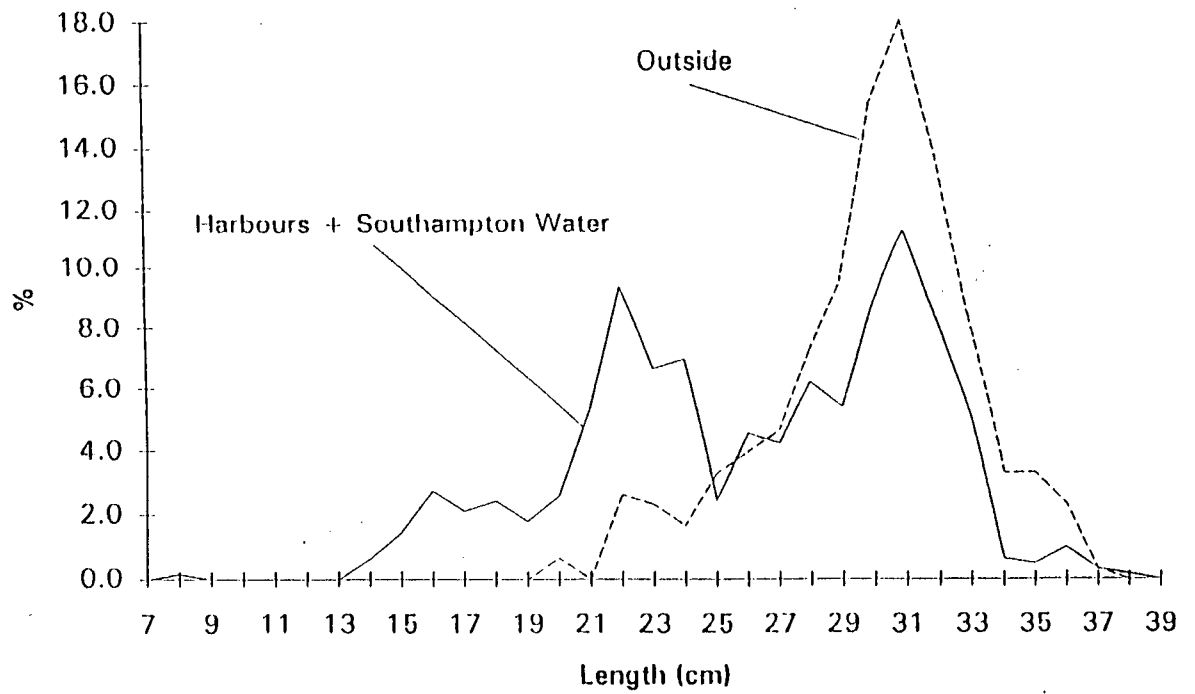
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Mr S Holman, CFO Sussex SFC
Mr M Whitley, CFO Southern SFC

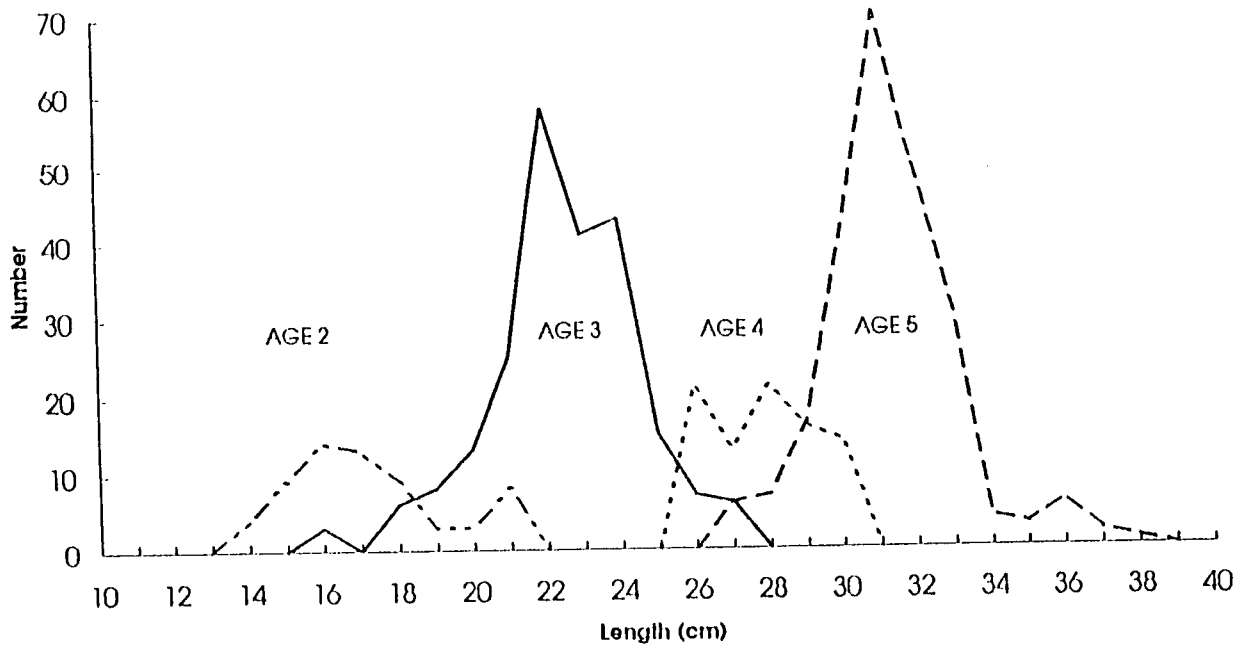
Solent Bass Survey May 1994



Solent Bass Survey May 1994 %LD's



Solent Bass Survey May 1994 - Harbours and Southampton Water
ALD



Solent Bass Survey May 1994 - Outside ALD

