

**CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SCIENCE,
LOWESTOFT LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK NR33 0HT**

CRUISE REPORT: CHARTER PROGRAMME, PRINCE MADOG 2 / 2002

STAFF:

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DURATION: 19 – 21 February 2002

LOCATION: eastern Irish Sea

AIMS:

Second in a series of 5 to,

1. Carry out a plankton survey in the Eastern Irish Sea to determine plaice egg spawning.
2. Collect zooplankton samples for copepod production and fish larval feeding studies.

NARRATIVE:

Staff travelled to Menai Bridge by road and embarked on the RV Prince Madog 18/02/02. Sampling equipment was installed the following morning and RV Prince Madog sailed at 0945 in strong westerly winds. The vessel proceeded into the eastern Irish Sea where five plankton stations were completed in inshore waters off the North Wales coast. Due to increasing winds to gale force the vessel returned to port, docking at 2000. Weather conditions failed to improve until the morning of 21/02/02, when the vessel sailed at 0700. Six more stations were completed near to the coast. However, once again gale force winds forced sampling to be abandoned and RV Prince Madog returned to Menai Bridge. Staff disembarked 22/02/02 and travelled back to Lowestoft.

RESULTS:

Aims 1 and 2. 11 sites out of 49 were completed as a result of the bad weather. Sampling was carried out using a Gulf VII plankton sampler, fitted with a 270µm mesh net and an auxiliary, fine mesh (64µm) 'pup' net. Two plankton samples were collected on each sampling position and preserved for subsequent analysis at Lowestoft laboratory. Flowmeter readings were obtained via a self-logging readout unit, and temperature and salinity profiles by an FSI self-logging mini-CTD. All equipment functioned satisfactorily.

N Bunn
10/05/02

INITIALLED:

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