

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

CRUISE REPORT: CHARTER PROGRAMME, PRINCE MADOG 4 / 2002

STAFF:

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DURATION: 8 – 10 April 2002

LOCATION: eastern Irish Sea

AIMS:

Fourth 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 7 April. Sampling equipment, including a towed transducer for receiving Scanmar signals, was installed the following morning and RV Prince Madog sailed at 1020. The vessel proceeded through the Menai Straits into the eastern Irish Sea where sampling commenced at a site off Red Wharf Bay on Anglesey. 49 stations were completed in little over 48 hours in slight to moderate seas. RV Prince Madog returned to port and docked at 1500.

RESULTS:

Aims 1 and 2. RV Prince Madog successfully completed all 49 stations. The Gulf VII plankton sampler used was fitted with a 270µm mesh net and an auxiliary, fine mesh (64µm) 'pup' net was attached to the frame. Two plankton samples were collected on each sampling position and preserved for analysis at Lowestoft laboratory later in the year. Flowmeter readings were provided by self-logging readout units, and temperature and salinity profiles by an FSI self-logging mini-CTD. All equipment functioned without fault.

N Bunn
28/05/02

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