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

1986 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV PRINCE MADOG 36/86  
(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

#### STAFF

A Franklin (SIC)  
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#### DURATION

Left Menai Bridge 0915 h 8 September 1986  
Arrived Menai Bridge 0815 h 12 September 1986  
All times are Greenwich Mean Time

#### LOCATION

North-eastern Irish Sea

#### AIMS

1. To collect fish samples from Liverpool Bay, for EQS submissions to EC and Oslo/Paris Commissions.
2. To collect samples of surface sediment from the vicinity of the Morecambe Bay gas field, for analysis for hydrocarbons and trace metals, as part of the continuing study of the gas field development.
3. To collect samples of fish off Morecambe Bay and at sites south and east of the Isle of Man as a continuation of the spatial variation in contaminant concentrations.

#### NARRATIVE

PRINCE MADOG sailed from Menai Bridge on the morning of 8 September and proceeded to the Liverpool Bay Dumping Ground area where trawling commenced. Fishing was completed there and to the north-east near Site Y, before anchoring for the night off Rhyl. Trawling commenced off Rhyl first thing in the morning of the 9th and continued to the east off the Dee Estuary until mid-day, when sampling for Aim 1 was completed. PRINCE MADOG then steamed north to the Morecambe Bay gas field and grabbing commenced in the afternoon. Sampling was completed round 2 platforms before the ship anchored for the night just to the north of the gas exploration zone. Grabbing recommenced the next morning and was continued to mid-afternoon when the survey was completed. PRINCE MADOG then steamed to the Cumbrian coast where trawling was undertaken off Barrow before anchoring for the night. Trawling continued the next day off the Wirral and to the west of Liverpool Bay at a number of sites. PRINCE MADOG anchored off Rhyl for the night and then steamed back to Menai Bridge on the morning of 12 September, docking at 0815 h GMT

RESULTS

- Aim 1: Samples of cod, whiting, plaice, dab and sole were obtained for EQS purposes.
- Aim 2: Just over 80 grab samples were taken around five gas installations.
- Aim 3: Samples of a number of species of fish were obtained from Morecambe Bay and other areas in the eastern Irish Sea for the spatial study on contaminants.

A Franklin  
30 September 1986

SEEN IN DRAFT: T Donovan (Master)

INITIALLED: PCW  
HWH

DISTRIBUTION:

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