

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

REPORT: PRINCE MADOG CRUISE 3 / 2001

STAFF:

Dr Clive Fox (SIC)
Miss N Bunn
Mr P Davison
Dr Robin Clark

DURATION: 19 March – 23 March 2001

LOCATION: Eastern Irish Sea

AIMS:

1. To carry out a plankton survey in the eastern Irish Sea to estimate the location, magnitude and timing of plaice spawning (project M0423).
2. To collect zooplankton samples for copepod biomass studies (project M0423).

NARRATIVE:

Staff travelled to Menai Bridge by road and embarked on 18 March. Sampling equipment, including a towed transducer for receiving Scanmar signals, was installed and RV Prince Madog sailed at 11:00 the following morning. The vessel proceeded through the Menai Straits into the eastern Irish Sea where ten plankton stations were completed off the North Wales coast. The vessel then returned to port as the weather deteriorated rapidly (Force 8/9). Sampling recommenced on 21 March and was completed on 23 March. Due to time constraints, two planned stations were not sampled but comprehensive coverage of the known plaice spawning areas was achieved.

RESULTS:

Aims 1 and 2. RV Prince Madog successfully completed 47 of 49 stations. At each station a main net (270 µm mesh) and fine net (80 µm mesh) sample were collected and preserved in 4% buffered formaldehyde for later laboratory analysis. Little net clogging was experienced.

All equipment functioned satisfactorily but one of the main flowmeters was damaged when the supporting bracket worked loose.

N Bunn
25 March 2001

INITIALLED:

DISTRIBUTION

Basic list +
Staff on cruise
C. Fox
R. Nash (PEML)
S. Milligan
Sea Fisheries Committees: North Western and North Wales & Cumbria