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

1997 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CORYSTES: CRUISE 10b/97

STAFF: M J Kaiser (SIC)
R P Flatt
D B Edwards
P Greig-Smith
K Ramsay (School of Ocean Sciences, Bangor)
C Biles (Manchester University)

DURATION: 07-13 October

LOCALITY: Irish Sea

AIMS:

To survey areas subjected to different intensities of fishing in the Irish Sea using a combination of the following techniques:

1) Side-scan sonar survey to ascertain the comparability of substratum type in areas used for comparative studies, and to ascertain the recent intensity of fishing in those areas.

2) Sample the epibenthic community within specific areas using repeated tows (3-5 min duration) of a 2 m beam trawl fitted with a stills camera to obtain images of the seabed and quantitative estimates of epifauna.

3) Collect specimens of live bivalves at each station using an anchor dredge for determination of historical fishing intenisty which can be related to the communities observed in aim 2 (NP0309).

4) Collect sediment samples at each station using a Day grab for sedimentological analysis.

5) Record the occurrence and damage rate of starfish and retain them for laboratory analyses. Retain live bivalves for laboratory growth studies to ascertain the rate of repair of damaged shells.

6) RoxAnn and the new QTC system will be run in parallel to compare which gives the best prediction of community type.

PLAN:

Staff will join RV Corystes on the evening of October 06 or the morning or October 07 depending on tides and sailing times. The ship will sail for a destination off the south east of the Isle of Man. Areas subjected to different levels of fishing activity will be sampled using the following protocol:

The seabed in each area will be mapped using side-scan sonar. This will identify any obstructions or areas of the seabed unsuitable for comparative purposes. A stratified grid of 5 stations will then be sampled using: i) 2 m beam trawl fitted with a stills camera to sample epifauna, ii) Day grab to collect sediment samples, iii) an anchor dredge and/or benthos dredge to collect live bivalve specimens and community samples.

With the aims of the programme completed, the following staff will be put ashore at Anglesey; Dr Greig-Smith, Dr Ramsay, Ms Biles.

M J Kaiser
13/08/97

Basic list +
W J Meadows
Dr AR Brand (Port Erin Marine Laboratory)