

2005 CHARTER CRUISE PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME: INA K 1/2005

(PROVISIONAL: not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF: M. Brown
J. Smith
S. Walmsley
Environment Agency staff (part-time)

DURATION: 6th November – 11th November 2005

LOCATION: Thames, Medway, Swale and Essex Estuaries

AIMS:

1. To carry a trawl survey for pre-recruit bass in the middle Thames estuary, Medway, Swale, Essex Blackwater, Crouch and Roach Estuaries over established grid stations.
2. To determine the relative abundance of bass and other species in the Thames and adjoining estuaries.
3. To obtain samples of flatfish for environmental monitoring programmes.
4. To obtain sample of 100 0-group bass for an experiment on feeding ecology of juvenile bass using stable isotopes.

PLAN:

CEFAS staff will travel to Leigh-on Sea on the 5th November and will meet the charter vessel that day to load the survey gear. EA staff will join the vessel on the morning of 6th November and the survey will commence that day and continue for 6 days. It is intended to complete approximately 35 tows using twin bass trawls fitted with shrimp-mesh cod-end liners. The survey will work from Leigh-on-Sea and Wallasea marina and the order of working in each area will be dependent on weather and local tidal conditions. CEFAS staff will return to Lowestoft on the evening of the 11th November.

M. J. Brown
11 October 2005

INITIALLED:

BH

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list +

S. Coates EA

S Colclough EA

J S Smith

S. Walmsley

Mr K Knapp, Skipper FV INA K

Mr J Stroud, Kent and Essex SFC

Mr J Wiggins, Kent and Essex SFC

Mr S Douglas, DEFRA Fisheries Office, Harwich.