

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

CRUISE REPORT: CHARTER PROGRAMME, PRINCE MADOG 1 / 2002

STAFF:

C. Fox (SIC)
N. Bunn
P. Davison
H. Rossetti (PEML)

DURATION: 21 January 2002

LOCATION: eastern Irish Sea

AIMS:

First in a series of 5 cruises to,

1. Carry out a plankton survey of 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 20/01/02. Sampling equipment was installed the following morning and RV Prince Madog sailed at 1030 in poor weather. The vessel proceeded into the eastern Irish Sea to an inshore site off Anglesey where sampling gear was deployed with difficulty in strong winds. Problems were experienced, particularly with a depth transducer towed at the surface, because of the rough sea state and it was decided that conditions were too severe to permit safe deployment and retrieval of the gear by staff. The vessel returned to port and docked at 1430. In response to forecasts of strong gales in the area for the rest of the week, the survey was abandoned with no samples collected. Staff travelled back to Lowestoft 22/01/02.

N Bunn
10/05/02

INITIALLED:

DISTRIBUTION:

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