

**CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SCIENCE,
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CRUISE REPORT: CHARTER PROGRAMME, PRINCE MADOG 5 / 2003

STAFF:

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DURATION: 28 – 30 April 2003

LOCATION: eastern Irish Sea (VIIa)

AIMS:

Last in a series of five plankton surveys to:

1. Collect plankton samples to determine plaice egg spawning and production
2. Collect zooplankton samples for copepod production and fish larval feeding studies.

NARRATIVE:

Staff travelled to Menai Bridge on 27 March. Sampling equipment was assembled the following morning and RV Prince Madog sailed at 10:00. Nine plankton tows were completed at positions along the north Wales coast throughout the day. However, due to freshening winds and forecasts of westerly gales, RV Prince Madog returned to port that evening to shelter. Sampling recommenced at 10:00 the next day, and a further 32 plankton tows were carried out. Because of the time lost to bad weather, the sampling grid was reduced to 41 tows from the planned 49, but an even coverage of the survey area was maintained (see station track attached).

RESULTS:

Aims 1 and 2. 41 out of 49 plankton tows were completed. Two samples were collected at each position using a Gulf VII unencased plankton sampler fitted with a main 270µm mesh net, and an auxiliary fine mesh (80µm) 'pup' net. The samples were preserved in 4% formalin for subsequent analysis at the Lowestoft laboratory. Self-logging flowmeters recorded data to calculate the volume of water filtered by each net. Temperature and salinity profiles were provided by a FSI mini-CTD attached to the frame of the sampler. All equipment functioned without fault.

N Bunn
8 May 2003

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Basic list +
Staff on cruise
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S Milligan

R Nash (PEML)
Sea Fisheries Committees:
North Western and North Wales
Cumbria

CEFAS charter programme, cruise Prince Madog 5 / 03: station track showing mid-point positions of 41 plankton tows (numbered consecutively) in the eastern Irish Sea, 28 - 30 April 2003.

