

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

1987 CHARTER CRUISE PROGRAMME

REPORT
PROGRAMME: ANGELLE MARIE : CRUISE 1

DURATION:

10-16 May

LOCALITY:

Solent/Southampton Water

STAFF:

M G Pawson
G D Pickett
D R Eaton

AIMS:

1. To carry out routine survey of pre-recruit bass using a high-headline trawl with a cod-end liner.
2. To obtain samples of adolescent (32-38 cm) bass for gonad development studies.
3. To carry out biological sampling of bass catches from the Solent area
4. To carry out a preliminary survey of potential bass nursery areas in the Solent and adjacent harbours and estuaries.
5. To obtain specimens of live, mature bass and grey mullet for ovulation studies.

NARRATIVE:

Staff arrived in Portsmouth late on 10 May and put gear on board ANGELLE MARIE. The standard trawl survey commenced off Hayling Island the following morning in poor weather. Sea conditions restricted work to Southampton Water on 12 May and ANGELLE MARIE docked at Warsash that evening. Tows in the western Solent and along the north shore of the Isle of Wight were worked on 13th. Poor weather on the 14th prevented work at sea and one staff member (MP) returned to Lowestoft. The opportunity was taken on that day and the subsequent afternoon (after return to port with gear damage) to carry out biological sampling of bass at local merchants (aim 3) and to visit potential nursery sites in harbours and estuaries nearby (aim 4).

Trawling in the eastern Solent including Chichester Harbour was successfully completed on 16 May and staff returned to Lowestoft that evening.

RESULTS:

1. The standard trawl survey yielded 197 bass mainly in the 28-38 cm (total length) range. There appeared to be few fish in the harbours but they were widely distributed throughout the survey area with no concentrations. As indicated in the previous (September) survey the 1984 year class appears poor and no 1985 brood have yet been encountered. A few older, recently spawned fish were caught (50-58 cm).

2. A total of 66 adolescent (32-38 cm) bass were obtained for gonad development studies.
3. Visits to commercial premises produced 205 bass for biological sampling (length and weight plus scale samples for ageing). These had been caught mainly by trawls and drift nets.
4. Site inspections from the shore were made at four potential bass nursery area locations and additional data including fishing effort at these and other sites were collected whilst onboard the chartered vessel.
5. Although several adult bass and mullet were caught, all females were spent fish and only two 'running' males bass were caught.

G D Pickett
27 May 1987

INITIALLED:
D J G

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +
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