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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD, FISHERIES LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT,  
SUFFOLK, ENGLAND, NR33 0HT

1988 CHARTER CRUISE PROGRAMME

CRUISE REPORT: Angelle Marie: Cruise 1

STAFF:

G D Pickett  
D Eaton

LOCALITY:

Solent

DURATION:

16-20 May 1988

AIMS:

1. To carry out routine survey of pre-recruit bass using a high-headline trawl with a cod-end liner.
2. To assess the distribution of adolescent/adult bass using commercial bass trawls, and to examine trawl selectivity.
3. To tag bass over 35 cm total length.
4. To obtain samples of bass lymphoid organs for Leicester Polytechnic (Dr J O'Neill).

NARRATIVE:

Staff travelled to Portsmouth late on 15 May and trawling commenced the following morning, working from Warsash (R Hamble). Standard trawl stations in Southampton water, off the Isle of Wight (Ryde-Cowes) and in Stanswood Bay were completed by 17 May. Stations in the eastern Solent, Langstone and Chichester harbours were worked out of Portsmouth on 18 and 19 May. Tows with standard commercial gear were made in the eastern Solent and Langstone Harbour on 20 May. Staff returned to Lowestoft on 21 May.

RESULTS:

1. The trawl survey produced 205 bass mainly in the 30-37 cm (total length) range. No concentrations of fish were found and most consistent catches were made in the upper part of Southampton Water, Langstone Run and Hayling Bay. The 1983 year-class with a modal length of 35 cm dominated catches (73%) with the 1984 and 1985 broods being poorly represented as in the 1987 surveys. The largest fish encountered measured 47 cm (total length) and these were fish of the 1981 year class (2).

2. Using a commercial trawl with 75 mm mesh in the cod end only 27 bass were caught in 8 tows, those in the range 30-42 cm, mean length 35.9 cm.
3. A total of 96 bass of 35 cm + were tagged using mini-Howitt bridle tags.
4. Twelve samples of bass lymphoid organs were preserved for Leicester Polytechnic.

G D Pickett  
7 June 1988

INITIALLED: D J G

DISTRIBUTION:

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