

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

1990 CHARTER CRUISE PROGRAMME

REPORT: ANGELLE MARIE 1/90

STAFF: G Pickett
S Warnes

LOCATION: Southampton Water, Solent and adjacent harbours

DURATION: 24-30 May 1990

- AIMS:
1. To carry out a survey of pre-recruit bass using a standard high-headline trawl with cod-end liner.
 2. To tag juvenile bass (18-36 cm total length) in the harbours (prospective nursery areas) adjoining the Solent.
 3. To sample commercial catches of bass as available to supplement the biological sampling programme.

NARRATIVE:

Staff travelled to Warsash (River Hamble), on the afternoon of 24 May, where gear was loaded aboard the charter vessel. The survey commenced at 0800 on 25 May in Stanswood Bay and stations in the Western Solent and Southampton Water were completed by 1400 on 26 May. The charter vessel then moved to Portsmouth from which stations in the Eastern Solent, Langstone and Chichester Harbours were worked on 27 and 28 May.

Following completion of the survey staff visited fish merchants in Portsmouth, Shoreham, Newhaven, Eastbourne and Rye, returning to Lowestoft on 30 May.

RESULTS:

1. Thirty-two trawl stations were worked covering the majority of the survey grid and all the nursery area sites. A total of 242 bass were caught, none above 33 cm total length. Of these 42 were '1' group (1989 year class), 114 were '2' group and 85 were '3' group fish. The catch rate was 0.45 bass per minute which was lower than that obtained in the last survey (September 1989 - 1.44 bass per minute).
2. A total of 181 bass were tagged using mini-Howitt bridle tags for bass of 29 cm and above and Hallprint internal/external 'T' bar tags for those of 18-28 cm. Tagged fish were released at three locations: Southampton Water (23 fish), Langstone Harbour (78 fish) and Chichester Harbour (80 fish).
3. Ad-hoc biological sampling at merchants produced 135 length/scale samples of bass from three gear categories.

G D Pickett
11 June 1990

INITIALED: JGS

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