

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

1987 CHARTER CRUISE PROGRAMME

REPORT: ANGELLE MARIE: CRUISE 2

DURATION:
6-11 September

LOCALITY:
Solent/Southampton Water

STAFF:
G D Pickett
C G Brown

AIMS:

1. To carry out routine survey of pre-recruit bass using a high-headline trawl with cod-end liner.
2. To tag adolescent/adult bass (36 cm+).
3. To carry out biological sampling of bass catches in Solent area.
4. To retain samples of adolescent bass (<36 cm) for gonad development studies.

NARRATIVE:

Staff arrived at Portsmouth in the evening of 6 September and joined ANGELLE MARIE at Warsash (R. Hamble) early on 7 September. Tows were made at the standard stations in the Western Solent on that day and in Southampton Water on 8 September. Stations in the Eastern Solent including Chichester Harbour were worked from Portsmouth during the next two days. Trawl damage and rapidly deteriorating weather brought the survey to a close after completion of Station 31 on 10 September. All but 2 standard stations were sampled during the survey.

Visits were made to commercial premises after docking at Portsmouth Camber.

RESULTS:

1. The trawl survey produced 191 bass mainly in the 28-42 cm (total length) range but with some larger fish up to 68 cm. Fewer fish than normal were encountered in Southampton Water and as in the May survey bass were widely dispersed with no concentrations. The absence of fish below 28 cm suggests that the 1984-86 year classes are very poor in this region.
2. A total of 52 bass between 36 and 68 cm were tagged and released mainly in the Eastern Solent.

3. Only one commercial sample of (trawl caught) bass was measured - catches being generally light during the survey period.
4. A sample of 20 bass of 32-35 cm were retained from the survey for gonad development studies.

G D Pickett

~~16 September 1987~~

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