

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

1995 CHARTER VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: ANGELLE MARIE 2/95

(Provisional: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF: G. Pickett  
D. Eaton

DURATION: 9 - 16 September 1995

LOCATION: The Solent, Southampton Water, Chichester and Langstone Harbours.

AIMS:

1. To carry out a trawl survey for pre-recruit bass in the Solent area.
2. To sample commercial bass landings.
3. To tag adult bass (>40cm TL)

NARRATIVE:

Staff travelled to Portsmouth late on 9 September and carried out biological sampling at local merchants the following morning. Equipment was loaded aboard ANGELLE MARIE that afternoon at Warsash, on the Hamble River. The survey commenced at 0700 on 11 September, working grid stations in the western Solent. The next day saw the completion of stations in and around Southampton water, after which the survey vessel moved to moorings at Sparkes Marina, Chichester Harbour. Two more days (13 & 14 September) saw the completion of stations in the Eastern Solent and in Chichester and Langstone Harbours and on 15th September additional stations were worked to the east of the survey area to obtain larger bass for tagging. Staff returned to Lowestoft on 16 September.

RESULTS:

1. Thirty nine survey tows were completed and 4845 bass were caught in total. Of these 3242 (67%) were 1 - group (1994 year - class) and the bulk were caught in the harbours where they were the dominant age class. Outside the harbours 492 bass were caught and the dominant age was 3 (1992 year - class). Unlike the May survey, when few bass of any size were caught in the eastern Solent and Chichester Harbour, moderate to high densities were encountered throughout most of the survey area. Around 50 bass from the exceptional 1989 year - class were caught in the survey, both outside and inside the harbours. Most exceeded 36 cm total length. Catch rates (bass / min) were 18.5 inside the harbours and 2.1 outside (10.2 overall). The overall catch-rate was twice that obtained in the May survey this year and the high abundance of bass is due mainly to the impact

of the 1994 year - class which appears, in the Solent at least, to be similar of size as in 1989.

2. Three landings of bass, totalling 90 fish, were measured at local merchants' premises to supplement the biological sampling programme.
3. A total of 37 mature bass of 40 cm + TL were tagged and released.

G.D. Pickett  
9 October 1995

INITIALLED: C T M

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +

D. Eaton

Mr D. Baldacchino - Skipper FV Angelle Marie

Mr D. Jenkins - FO II Chichester

Mr R. Hawking - FO II Portsmouth

Mr M. Whitely - CFO Southern SFC

Mr S. Holman - CFO Sussex SFC

Solent Bass ALD, Sep 1995 - Outside

