

R1/3

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Charter Cruise Report

Ref H08

Aora

27-29 March 1990

Personnel

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Objectives

1. To determine disease levels in fish on Firth of Clyde sewage dump ground and compare them with levels in an adjacent control area.
2. To examine whelks, *Buccinum* sp., for parasites.

Results

Fish caught on the sewage sludge dump site and an appropriate control site on the Firth of Clyde were examined for disease conditions identified by ICES. Common dab, long rough dab, haddock, cod, flounder and plaice were caught using a small mesh prawn-net which was trawled on each occasion for one hour. All fish were examined using standard methods.

Long rough dab were the most abundant of the fish surveyed. No significant differences were recorded in the prevalence of pseudoternova in the flesh of this species (1.7-2.2%). Only 19 common dab were caught in this survey hence data on disease in this species cannot be examined with confidence. The prevalence of pseudobranch tumours from cod caught in the dump site was 2.9%, compared to 4.4% on the control site. Tissues were photographed and fixed for light microscopy. As most of the haddock caught were less than 25 cm, and hence normally excluded from such surveys, they were only examined visually; no vertebral abnormalities were recorded. No plaice were found infected with lymphocystis.

Overall most fish were caught from the equivalent number of hauls on the dump site than the control site, but only the cod and long rough dab were caught in sufficient numbers to justify further analysis.

Half a day was given over to trawling for whelks at several distances from the two sites. This material was transported back to the Laboratory for further analysis.

D W Bruno

4 April 1990