

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

1988 RV PROGRAMME

REPORT: MV BALAENA, CHARTER 2
(Provisional: not to be quoted without permission of the author)

STAFF: D Eaton
C Whiting
D Davies (CERL, CEGB, Fawley)

DURATION: 3-5 November, 1988

LOCATION: R Medway, Kent.

AIMS:

To continue investigations begun on BALAENA CHARTER 1/88 into the population structure, distribution and movements of 0 group/juvenile bass in the Medway estuary, and their daily mortality rate on the cooling-water intake screens at Kingsnorth power station.

NARRATIVE:

A trawl survey was conducted in the River Medway between Grain and Chatham on 3 November using selected tows from the BALAENA 1/88 charter.

The remaining two days were devoted to fishing in the warm-water outfall channel from Kingsnorth power station. Fish caught in four geographically separated areas were marked differently using red tattooists' ink, and released in the area of capture, except for two batches of fish caught in the outfall channel, which were suitably marked and released at sites up- and down-stream of Kingsnorth power station. All fishing was done using the Poole pattern small bass trawl.

RESULTS:

As in the first charter, very few bass were caught away from the warm-water outfall channel. The disposition of catches by area was as follows;

1. Upstream of Kingsnorth: 1 tow (11 mins). No bass. 814 bass translocated from E. Hoo creek and released in Short Reach (marked single, red, left).
2. Kingsnorth area: 3 tows (66 mins). 1 bass not released.
3. Downstream of Kingsnorth: 3 tows (61 mins). 1 bass not released plus 583 bass translocated from E. Hoo creek and released at Sharp Ness (marked single, red, right).
4. Areas outside of marking areas as 1 to 3 above: 3 tows (51 mins). Nil bass.
5. East Hoo/Damhead Creek (warm-water outflow): 22 tows (219 mins). 2674 bass (including 7 recaptures) of which 1118 were marked double red left and released in the creek. A further 1397 were used for translocation as described previously. In addition 109 golden grey mullet (Liza aurata) were caught, of which 74 were released in the creek, marked red, left.

No gear damage was sustained. Further fishing will be carried out in late November (23-25) and early December (2-5). Monitoring of bass in fish traps in the hot-water outfall lagoon, and those appearing on the cooling-water intake screens continues.

D Eaton
11 November 1988

INITIALLED: DJG

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list +

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