

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

1990 CHARTER VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: SEPTEMBER YOUNG FISH SURVEY 1990

STAFF: Team 1 C. L. Whiting
G. Howlett

Team 2 T. Watson
A. Lawler

Team 3 R. Millner
S. Milligan
A. Thompson (part time)

Team 4 M. Easey
C. Brown

DURATION: 1-27 September

LOCATION: Flamborough Head - Swanage Bay

AIM: To carry out an inshore beam trawl and pushnet survey of part of the North Sea and English Channel coasts, of young demersal fish in relation to the environment. To include collecting data for juvenile flatfish year class size estimation.

NARRATIVE:

TEAM 1. Staff travelled to Hastings on 31 August. FV ST. RICHARD of Hastings was used for beam trawling in the area Rye Harbour to St Leonards on 1-4 September. FV JO'S BOYS of Dungeness was used in the area Dymchurch to Camber on 5 and 6 September. FV SHAROWNA of Brighton was used on 8 September in the area Shoreham to Cuckmere Haven and FV ANNA LOUISE of Normans Bay was used on 9 September for beam trawling in the area of Eastbourne and Pevensey Bay. Staff travelled to Christchurch on 10 September and FV AVON VALLEY of Mudeford was used to complete the beam trawl survey in the area Swanage to Selsey Bill during the period 11-15 September inclusive.

Push net sites were sampled as convenient throughout the period 3-19 September.

The cooling water intake screens at Kingsnorth power station were sampled on 21 September, after which staff returned to Lowestoft.

TEAM 2. Staff travelled to West Mersea on 31 August and FV OUR TRACEY of West Mersea was used for beam trawling in the North Thames area during 1-4 September. FV OUR SARAH JANE of Whitstable was used to complete the survey in the South Thames area and River Thames during 9-11 September. Push net sites were sampled as convenient throughout the period 5-14 September when staff returned to Lowestoft.

TEAM 3. FV PROVIDER of Lowestoft was used for beam trawling in the area Happisburgh to Sizewell during the periods 4-5 and 10-11 September and all local push net sites were sampled between 12-27 September.

TEAM 4. Staff travelled to Skegness on 31 August and FV CHALLENGE of Wainfleet Haven was used to complete the survey in the area Humber to Wells during the period 1-9 September. FV JANET M of Bridlington was used on 14 September to survey Bridlington Bay. Push net sites were sampled as convenient between 7-13 September and staff returned to Lowestoft on 15 September.

RESULTS

1. 372 hauls using the standard 2 m beam trawl and 43 push net sites using the standard 1.5 m push net were sampled. An additional 8 hauls were sampled in the River Humber in cooperation with the National River Authority - Anglian region. All fish caught were identified and measured. Surface salinity samples and sediment samples were collected at each station and observations of surface temperature and the catch of benthos were recorded. Shrimp by-catch was recorded at each station. Observations of dissolved oxygen levels were made at all stations in the River Humber.
2. These data have now been processed and provisional results indicate that along the English east coast the 1990 year class of sole is slightly above average and plaice slightly below average. The index for one year old sole (1989 year class) is the highest recorded (since 1973). Along the Eastern Channel coast the 1989 year class of sole is slightly above average but plaice is well below average.

GENERAL

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the skippers and crews of all the vessels taking part in the survey for their friendly help, advice and cooperation.

C L Whiting
4 October 1990

INITIALLED: GPA

DISTRIBUTION:

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