

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

1992 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV CIROLANA: CRUISE 1

(Provisional not to be quoted without prior reference to the author.)

STAFF: C Allchin (SIC)
 A Kenny
 A Fagg
 Miss R Hamer
 Mrs J Jones
 A Green
 Ms J Boyle

DURATION:

Sailed Lowestoft: 2038h 3 January
Docked Lowestoft: 0042h 10 January

(All times are GMT)

AIMS:

1. To obtain samples of "core" fish species from National Monitoring Plan stations in the Southern North Sea and the English Channel. If time permits, further sampling will be carried out in the Bristol Channel.
2. To carry out a brief survey of aggregate treatment and reference sites off North Norfolk.

NARRATIVE:

Cirolana left Lowestoft at 2038h and steamed to the proposed aggregate extraction site off Cromer. Two grids were worked for aim 2. beginning at 0326h on 4 January. Sediment samples were taken with a Hamon grab, these were sieved, sorted and preserved for further analysis back at the laboratory. Once the Hamon grab stations were completed (a total of 10) a single tow through each grid with a scallop dredge was carried out to sample for benthic fauna. These samples were also sorted and preserved for further analysis on return to Burnham.

Cirolana then steamed south where fishing began in the outer Thames estuary using a Portuguese high headline trawl on the evening of 4 January for aim 1. Fishing in the Thames area was completed by the following evening and Cirolana then proceeded to the Channel where work at stations off Brighton, in Lyme Bay and off Plymouth was completed by the afternoon of 7 January.

Cirolana then steamed off-shore to the National Monitoring Plan (NMP) reference station, however, due to the worsening weather and sea state Cirolana was forced to return to Lyme Bay, the planned work at the NMP reference station being abandoned.

Because earlier catches in Lyme Bay had been light further tows in the area were worked on 8 January. Moving off-shore, fishing was completed at NMP Stn#12 (NSTF #72 Central Channel) late on the evening of 8 January (last haul 2358h)

Cirolana then headed for Lowestoft and docked at 0042h 10 January.

RESULTS:

Aim 2. Successfully completed, all planned samples from both the proposed experimental and reference grids being collected to be further processed on return to the laboratory.

Aim 1. Although catches of the "target species" (cod, whiting, dab and plaice) were generally light, adequate samples of all species with the exception of cod were collected. Cod were absent at most stations with only occasional large fish (80-90cm) being present in the Thames area. Additional samples of sprats, mackerel, sole, lemon sole, eels (Thames only) and black bream (NMP Stn#12 only) were taken and preserved where present in large enough numbers. Proposed work at the NMP baseline station and in the Bristol Channel was abandoned due to bad weather. Collected samples will be analysed for a range of organic and inorganic contaminants on return to the laboratory.

C R Allchin
9 January 1992

SEEN IN DRAFT:

Master - B Chapman
Fishing Skipper - J Harper

INITIALLED: CEP

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list +

Dr Portmann
Dr Campbell
Dr Matthiessen
Mr Law
Dr Waldock
Mr A Kenny
Mr A Fagg
Miss R Hamer
Mr A Green
Ms J Boyle
Mrs J Jones
Mr A Franklin

CIROLANA 1/92

SHOWING :
STATION POSITION
COASTLINE

