

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

1983 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: CHARTERED COMMERCIAL VESSELS AND PUSHNETTING

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

STAFF: Mr G. L. Whiting
Mr G. Houghton

TEAM 2 W G Parnell

S P Milligan

TEAM 3 T Watson

R N Tucker

O Maung - Visitor

TEAM 4 D J D Riley

C G Brown

DURATION: 31 August - 29 September 1983

LOCALITY:

Berwick - Swanage Bay

AIMS:

1. All teams. To carry out the English component to the international young flatfish assessment programme in the North Sea and eastern English Channel.
2. Team 1. To carry out comparative fishing trials in the North Thames area using a modified 2m beam trawl.
3. Team 3. To study the distribution of shrimps in the Humber - north Norfolk coast.
4. Team 4. To measure the year class strength of Turbot north of Flamboro' Head.

NARRATIVE:

Team 1. Staff travelled to West Mersea on 1 September. Poor weather conditions prevented working up to 5 September. Comparative fishing trials using FV ALVIC were worked 6-8 September. Staff travelled to Mudeford on 9 September and the beam trawl survey started on 10 September in the area Swanage to Selsey Bill and continued without interruption until 14 September using FV AVON VALLEY. Push net sites were also sampled in this period. No work was possible on 15 September. Staff were recalled on instructions from the laboratory and returned to Lowestoft on 16 September.

Messrs Whiting and Milligan travelled to Dungeness on 22 September and completed the beam trawl survey in this area using FV JO's BOYS by 24 September. Push net sites were sampled on 25 September and staff

travelled to Mudeford the same day. The survey in the area Swanage - Selsey Bill was completed using FV AVON VALLEY on 26 September. Staff returned to Lowestoft on 27 September.

Team 2. Staff travelled to West Mersea on 1 September. Push net sites were sampled until 5 September. The North Thames area was surveyed 6-9 September using FV BREADWINNER in mainly marginal conditions. Push net sites were sampled during 10-12 September and the South Thames area was completed using FV LOUANDRIC in the period 13-15 September. Work was terminated on instructions from the laboratory and staff returned to Lowestoft on 16 September.

Team 3. Staff travelled to Skegness on 31 August. Work started on 1 September using FV CHALLENGE in the area Humber-Wells and was completed by 13 September, often in marginal conditions. Staff travelled to Lowestoft on 14 September. Bad weather prevented work in the area Winterton-Orford until 16 September. FV LE TERRIBLE was used to complete the work in this area by 19 September. One more day was lost in this period to bad weather. Push net sites in Norfolk and Suffolk were sampled 20-23 September and in the Thames area 27-29 September.

Team 4. Staff travelled to Bridlington on 6 September and Bridlington Bay was surveyed on 7 September using FV NORTH WIND. Push net sites were sampled in the area from Berwick to Spurn Point in the period 8-16 September when staff returned to Lowestoft.

RESULTS:

Aim 1. The survey was affected by poor weather conditions throughout, even so the North Sea area was surveyed completely and the eastern English Channel at Dungeness and Swanage - Selsey Bill was completed satisfactorily. Unfortunately the area Selsey Bill - Rye Bay had to be abandoned. All fish caught were identified and measured.

Aim 2. 23 comparative hauls were made in the North Thames area using a modified 2m beam trawl.

Aim 3. Samples of shrimps were collected from the area Humber - North Norfolk coast and worked on at the Gibraltar Point field station.

Aim 4. 14 push net sites were sampled north of Flamborough Head to study the 0-group turbot year class assessment for comparison with the returns of sea surface drift indicators released off the north east coast in July and August.

All this data is now in the process of being analysed.

GENERAL

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

Distribution list with → C L Whiting
13 October 1983

INITIALLED: D J G