

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

1986 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: CHARTERED COMMERCIAL VESSELS AND PUSHNETTING
(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF: TEAM 1 C L Whiting
S P Milligan
S Rogers - Conwy (part-time)

TEAM 2 T Watson
Dr R Millner
S Rogers - Conwy (part-time)

TEAM 3 C G Brown
D Eaton

TEAM 4 J D Riley
J Last)
G J Howlett) part-time

DURATION: 31 August-27 September 1986

LOCATION: Scottish Border - Swanage Bay

AIMS:

1. All teams. To carry out an inshore beam trawl and push net 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 yearclass size estimation.
2. Teams 1 and 4. To continue studies of growth and mortality of young sole in the areas off Lowestoft and Rye Bay.
3. Team 1. To carry out a beam trawl survey of gravel extraction grounds east of the Isle of Wight. (For AEP2).
4. Team 3. To carry out an ecological survey of Alnmouth and Druridge Bays for the CEGB (CEGB funded).

NARRATIVE:

Team 1. Staff travelled to Dungeness on 31 August. FV JO'S BOYS of Dungeness was used for beam trawling on 1 and 2 September in the area Dymchurch to Camber. FV ST RICHARD of Hastings was used in the period 4-6 September to survey the area Rye Bay to Beachy Head. FV AVON VALLEY was used in the period 9-13 September to complete the survey in the area Selsey Bill to Swanage Bay and FV SHAROWNA of Brighton was used on 16 September to survey the area between Newhaven and Worthing. Push net sites were sampled throughout the period 31 August to 15 September.

The cooling water intake screens at Dungeness 'A' power station were sampled on 18 September and staff returned to Lowestoft the same day.

Staff returned to Mudeford on 24 September and using FV AVON VALLEY, completed a beam trawl survey of gravel extraction areas east of the Isle of Wight on 25 and 26 September. Staff travelled back to Lowestoft on 27 September.

Team 2. Staff travelled to West Mersea on 1 September. FV JOANNA J. of West Mersea was used for beam trawling in the North Thames area during the period 2-5 September. FV ALVIC of Whitstable was used to survey the river Thames and south Thames areas on 7-9 September. The cooling water intake screens of Dungeness 'A' power station were sampled on 6 September. Push net sites were sampled throughout the period 1-18 September. Staff returned to Lowestoft on 15 September.

Team 3. Staff travelled to Amble on 31 August. FV SERENITY of Amble was used to survey Alnmouth and Druridge Bays for the CEEB. FV CHALLENGE of Wainfleet Haven was used for beam trawling in the Wash and off the north Norfolk coast. Staff travelled back to Lowestoft on 21 September. Push net sites were sampled throughout the period 3-23 September.

Team 4. Staff used FV KIMBILL OF EDEN/for beam trawling in the area between Haisborough and Sizewell during the period 3-5 and 9 September. Local push net sites were sampled throughout this period.

RESULTS:

1. 313 hauls using the standard 2m beam trawl and 52 push net sites using the standard 1½m push net were sampled. All fish caught were identified and measured. Salinity and sediment samples were collected, and surface temperature, and benthos observations were made at each station. Observations on shrimp bycatch were recorded at all stations. Observations on dissolved oxygen were made at each station sampled in the river Thames. All this data is now in the process of being analysed.

2. Lowestoft and Rye Bay

a) A detailed survey of the distribution and abundance of 0 group sole was completed in both areas, in preparation for estimation of overwintering mortality of sole (0-1 group) during late 1986 and early 1987.

b) Live 0 group sole were held in tanks for 24 hours then deep frozen for laboratory estimation of condition factors.

c) Samples of 0 group sole were collected for total lipid content analysis.

d) Samples of 0 group sole and plaice were collected for morphometric studies.

3. 26 hauls using the standard 2m beam trawl were made in five gravel extraction areas east of the Isle of Wight. All fish caught were identified and measured and observations of benthos were recorded for each station. Catches of fish were generally very small and the nature of the sea bed meant that there was damage to the gear on many of the hauls.

4. 27 hauls with the standard 2m beam trawl and 8 push net sites with the standard 1½m push net were sampled. All fish caught were identified and measured and observations on salinity, sediment, benthos, surface temperature, and shrimp by catch were made at each station. This data is now being processed and will be made available to the CEEB.

GENERAL:

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

C L Whiting
3 October 1986

INITIALLED: D J G

DISTRIBUTION: Basic list+

C L Whiting
S Milligan
S Rogers - Conwy
T Watson
Dr R Millner
C G Brown
D Eaton
J D Riley
J Last
G J Howlett
Sea Fisheries Committee - Northumberland
North eastern
Eastern
Kent and Essex
Sussex
Southern

Skippers: N Henderson
I Martin
A Rodriguez
C Cook
J Martin
J Thomas
G Coglán
A Protor
D Watts