

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

1985 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

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

STAFF:                   Team 1    C L Whiting  
                                                  Dr R S Millner

                          Team 2    T Watson  
                                                  Dr A R Child

DURATION:               Team 1 22-27 November 1985  
                          Team 2 17-24 November 1985

LOCATION:                Lowestoft and Rye Bay

AIMS:                    Preliminary studies of growth and mortality of young sole.

NARRATIVE:

Team 1. Lowestoft. The beam trawl survey was started using FV SUNDANCE on 22 November but strong to gale NE winds forced an early return to Hamilton Dock. The survey was completed during the 25 and 26 November. Pushnetting was completed on 27 November.

Team 2 Rye Bay. Staff travelled to New Romney on 17 November by official vehicle. Push net sites at Camber and Winchelsea were sampled on 19 November and the beam trawl survey was completed in four days work 20-23 November 1985 using FV ST RICHARD of Hastings.

The cooling water intake screens at Dungeness 'A' power station were sampled on 18 and 25 November when staff returned to Lowestoft.

RESULTS:

1. 63 hauls using the standard 2m beam trawl (22 hauls off Lowestoft and 41 hauls in Rye Bay) and 7 push net sites using the standard 1½m push net (5 off Lowestoft and 2 in Rye Bay) were sampled. All fish caught were identified and measured. Salinity and sediment samples were collected, and surface temperature observations were made at each station. Observations on shrimp by-catch were also recorded.

2. a) Live Ogp sole were collected for laboratory estimation of gastric evacuation time (Lowestoft only) Live Ogp sole were held in tanks for 24 hours then deep frozen for laboratory estimation of condition factors.

b) Additional hauls were made in daylight and in dark and samples of Ogp sole from these hauls were collected for stomach content analysis, a description of the diurnal feeding pattern and for total lipid content analysis.

c) Samples of by-catch species were collected for stomach content analysis.

3. A trial haul was made using a scallop dredge in Rye Bay but no fish were caught. If this gear is used again a small mesh liner should be fitted to prevent small fish escaping through the chain mesh.

GENERAL:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the skippers and crews of both vessels for their friendly help and cooperation.

C L Whiting  
T Watson

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28 November 1985

INITIALLED: D J G

DISTRIBUTION:

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