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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 author)

STAFF:	TEAM 1	C L Whiting S P Milligan	
	TEAM 2	T Watson A Lawler	
	TEAM 3	C G Brown J D Riley) Part time J M Last)	

DURATION: 1-26 September 1985

LOCATION: The Wash - Swanage

AIMS:

All teams: To carry out the English component to the international young flatfish programme in the North Sea and the eastern English Channel.

Teams 1 and 3: Preliminary studies of growth and mortality of young sole in the area off Lowestoft and in Rye Bay.

NARRATIVE:

Team 1. Staff travelled to Dungeness on 1 September. FV JO'S BOYS of Dungeness was used for beam trawling on 4 and 5 September in the area Dymchurch to Rye Bay. FV ST RICHARD of Hastings was used during the period 7-10 September in the area Rye Bay to Beachy Head. FV AVON VALLEY of Mudeford was used on 12-16 September to complete the survey in the area Selsey Bill to Swanage. Push net sites were sampled throughout the period 1-21 September.

The cooling water intake screens at Dungeness 'A' power station were sampled on 2 and 21 September and staff returned to Lowestoft on 22 September.

Team 2. Staff travelled to Skegness on 2 September. FV CHALLENGE of Wainfleet Haven was used in the Wash and the area of Wells in the period 3-6 September. FV ALVIC of Whitstable completed the work in the area South Thames between 18-20 September. Push net sites were sampled throughout the period 3-23 September, when staff returned to Lowestoft.

Team 3. Staff travelled to West Mersea on 1 September. FV OUR TRACEY of West Mersea was used for the work in the North Thames area in the period 2-4 September. FV SUNDANCE of Lowestoft was used to survey the area between Haisborough and Sizewell during 9-13 September. Push net sites were sampled throughout the period 5-26 September.

RESULTS:

1. 232 hauls using the standard 2m beam trawl and 62 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 observations were made at each station. Observations on shrimp bycatch were recorded at all stations. 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 gp sole was completed in both areas.
 - (b) Live 0 gp sole were collected for laboratory estimation of gastric evacuation time (Lowestoft only). Live 0 gp sole were held in tanks for 24 hours then deep frozen for laboratory estimation of condition factors.
 - (c) Samples of 0 gp sole were collected for stomach content analysis, a description of the diurnal feeding pattern and for total lipid content analysis.
 - (d) Samples of 0 gp sole and plaice were collected for morphometric studies.

GENERAL:

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

C L Whiting
3 October 1985

INITIALLED: DJG

DISTRIBUTION:

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