

1989 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: CHARTERED COMMERCIAL VESSELS AND PUSHNETTING

STAFF:

- Team 1. C L Whiting
G J Howlett
- Team 2. T Watson
R Millner part time
D Brown part time
M W Easey part time
- Team 3. J D Riley part time
R Millner part time
S P Milligan part time
A R Lawler part time
- Team 4. C G Brown
S P Milligan

DURATION: 1-26 September 1989

LOCATION: Flamborough Head-Swanage Bay

AIM: ALL TEAMS. To carry out an inshore beam trawl and pushnet 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 year class size estimation.

NARRATIVE:

TEAM 1. Staff travelled to Hastings on 1 September. FV ST RICHARD of Hastings was used for beam trawling in the area Rye Harbour to Pevensy Bay on 2-5 Sept inclusive. FV JO'S BOYS of Dungeness was used in the area Camber to Dymchurch on 7 and 8 Sept. FV AVON VALLEY of Mudeford was used in the area Selsey Bill to Swanage Bay during 11-15 September inclusive. FV SHAROWNA of Brighton was used in the area Newhaven to Littlehampton on 23 and 24 Sept. Push net sites were sampled throughout the period 3-22 September.

The cooling water intake screens at Dungeness 'A' Power Station were sampled on 8 and 22 September and at Kingsnorth Power Station on 19 September. Staff returned to Lowestoft on 25 September.

TEAM 2. Staff travelled to Whitstable on 4 September. FV OUR SARAH JANE of Whitstable was used for beam trawling in the areas South Thames and River Thames on 5-7 September inclusive. FV OUR TRACEY of West Mersea was used to survey the area North Thames on 9 and 12-13 September. Staff travelled to Skegness on 17 September and FV CHALLENGER of Wainfleet Haven was used in the areas North Norfolk to River Humber during 18-25 September. Pushnet sites were sampled throughout the period 5-25 September. Staff returned to Lowestoft on 26 September.

TEAM 3. FV PROVIDER of Lowestoft was used to survey the area between Happisburgh and Sizewell during the periods 21-22 and 25-26 September. All local pushnet sites were sampled during the period 9-20 September.

TEAM 4. Staff travelled to Bridlington on 1 September. RV JANET M of Bridlington was used for beam trawling in Bridlington Bay on 2 September. All northern pushnet sites were sampled in the period 3-8 September when staff returned to Lowestoft.

RESULTS:

1. 330 hauls using the standard 2m beam trawl and 43 pushnet sites using the standard 1¹/₂ pushnet were sampled. An additional 8 hauls were sampled in the River Humber in cooperation with the Anglian Water Authority. All fish caught were identified and measured. Surface salinity samples and sediment samples were collected and observations of surface temperature and benthos were recorded at each station. Shrimp by-catch was recorded at each station. Observations on dissolved oxygen levels and turbidity were made at most stations in the Thames Estuary and at all stations in the River Thames.
2. Samples of plaice were taken in each of the main areas fished for age determination studies.
3. All this data is now in the process of being analysed but provisional results show that along the English east coast the 1989 year class of sole is the second highest on record (since 1973) and plaice is well below average. Along the English south coast the 1989 year class of sole is slightly above average and plaice slightly below average.

GENERAL:

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

C L Whiting
26 October 1989

INITIALLED: JDR, JGS

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +	Skippers, G Traves
C L Whiting	I Martin
G J Howlett	A Rodriguez
T Watson	T Cook
R Millner	J Martin
J D Riley	P Thomas
C G Brown	G Coglán
M W Easey	P Watts
S P Milligan	A Proctor
D Brown	
A R Lawler	
Sea Fisheries Committees, North Eastern	
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