

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

1988 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

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

STAFF: a) C L Whiting  
G H Howlett  
R H Banham (24 and 26 May 1988)

b) Dr R Millner  
M W Easey

DURATION: a) 25-28 April and 24 May 1988  
b) 26-27 April and 26 May 1988

LOCATION: Rye Bay and Off Lowestoft

AIMS

1. To estimate the post-winter population of juvenile sole.
2. To collect samples of juvenile sole for condition index and fat content estimation.

NARRATIVE

The standard beam trawl survey was completed in both areas during the period 25 April to 26 May 1988 using the chartered commercial vessels ST RICHARD from Hastings and WASH HARVESTER from Lowestoft.

RESULTS

1. A combined total of 108 hauls of 10 minutes duration were made using the standard 2 metre beam trawl. At 34 positions off Lowestoft a modified 2 metre beam trawl with spiked chain tickler was towed simultaneously with the standard 2 metre beam trawl.  
All fish caught were identified and measured. Surface salinity and sediment samples were collected, and surface temperature observations were made at each station. Observations on shrimp by-catch and benthos were also recorded at all stations.
2. Live 1-group sole were collected and held in tanks for 24 hours, then deep frozen for laboratory estimation of condition factors.

GENERAL

I would like to thank skippers Cogan and Rodrigues and their crews for their friendly help and cooperation.

C L Whiting  
9 June 1988

INITIALLED: DJG

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List + C L Whiting, G J Howlett, R H Banham, Dr R Millner, M W Easey,  
Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee, Sussex Sea Fisheries Committee