

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

1992 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT : CHARTER : FV EMBLEM

(Provisional: not to be cited without prior reference to the author)

STAFF: M R Vince  
M W Easey (23 Jan-3 Feb only)

DURATION: 23 January-3 February and 24-27 February

LOCALITY: Wolf Rock area

AIMS:

1. To tag recruiting cod for distribution and migration studies.

NARRATIVE:

Staff travelled to Newlyn by road on 23 January and the gear was put aboard FV EMBLEM on the 25th in readiness for an early start the next day. Three days were worked on a daily basis in the vicinity of the Wolf and Longships before fresh east to south east winds prevented fishing for two days. Two further days work were achieved on 31 January and 1 February before a mechanical problem and further inclement weather resulted in a decision by the staff to return to Lowestoft.

One member of the staff returned to Newlyn on 24 February and completed one further successful day's work before unsettled weather returned.

RESULTS:

1. A total of 494 cod was tagged and released within 2-6 miles off Wolf Rock. The standard Howitt flag tag was used on all fish, which on the first 5 days ranged in length between 36 and 57cms, and between 25 and 53cms on the last day (see Fig). Samples so far examined show the 1990 year class to predominate, but the later tagging included smaller fish that are more likely to be the 1991 year class. The condition of the tagged fish was generally good to moderate.
2. Tank rejects averaged 27% of the total cod catch and were used for otolith samples, maturity examination, and superficial gut content examination.
3. Otolith samples consisted of cod 41, plaice 12, monk 8, and sole 2.
4. In general fishing was poor and, besides cod, catches consisted of predominantly red gurnard with a few whiting, 'pin' hake, lemon sole, dabs and occasional 'monk' and John dory.

Our appreciation of the co-operation of the skipper and crew of the EMBLEM is recorded here. The degree of success achieved was due to their knowledge of the grounds and the help received.

M R Vince  
16 March 1992

INITIALLED : J W H

DISTRIBUTION :

Basic list+

M R Vince

M W Easey

Miss S Honeywood

D J Symonds

CFPO (Mr M Townsend)

Cornwall SFC

Skipper Goddard

# TAGGED COD LENGTH DISTRIBUTION

